

IDAHO EMPLOYMENT

Along the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes

Volume 20.9

Idaho Department of Labor

September 2008 Issue / July 2008 Data

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, GOVERNOR

ROGER B. MADSEN, DIRECTOR

IN THIS ISSUE

- Idaho's Latest Wage Report Published
- The Minimum Wage Hike — What it Means to Idaho Workers and Employers
- August Employment Estimate Report
- Mature Worker Job Fair Scheduled in Southwestern Idaho
- Regional Economic Developments —
Panhandle, North Central, Southwestern, South Central, Southeastern and East Central

State Tables — County-Specific Labor Force Data, Nonfarm Payroll Jobs, Economic Indicators.

Regional Labor Force Tables — Panhandle, North Central, Southwestern, South Central, Southeastern, East Central.

Glossary of Labor Terms

**Note: This publication is available online only. To subscribe, please send your request, including your name and e-mail address, to lmi@labor.idaho.gov.*

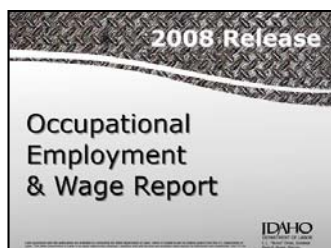
2008 OCCUPATIONAL WAGE DATA

Idaho's 2008 Occupational Employment and Wage survey has been completed, providing wage information on hundreds of occupations at both the statewide and regional levels. This is the most requested information from the Idaho Department of Labor.

The report identifies the most prevalent occupations and the wages they pay on a statewide basis and for Idaho's five metropolitan areas – Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise-Nampa, Pocatello and Idaho Falls – and the six regions including the metro areas – the Panhandle, north central, southwest, south central, southeast and northeast. It details the number of people working in an occupation, the entry wage, the average wage, median wage and the middle range which is the 25th and the 75th percentiles. The median wage is the center point, meaning half the people earn more and the other half earn less.

Since this data is produced using the same methodology in all 50 states, it can be validly compared with other states.

Many businesses rely on this information in setting pay policies because it gives them an idea of what competitive wages are both for retaining existing workers and attracting new ones. Since there is no cost of living index for Idaho,



The *Idaho Occupational Employment and Wage Report* is available for download at lmi.idaho.gov. Download the entire report or just a region or labor market area.

the wage data offers an alternative to simply using the national consumer price index to determine pay raises. While there are instances of significant wage disparity for specific occupations between states, generally the wage provides a comparative gauge on the cost of living.

Students use the survey information in making career choices. Many use the wage figures to decide whether they can live on what their dream job pays. If not, they can search for an alternative. The number of existing jobs in each occupation also tells job seekers about the likelihood of getting hired. It is a safe bet that the fewer jobs there are the harder it will be to get one.

Government agencies use the wage data to make prevailing wage determinations. School districts use the data in deciding which technical programs to offer high school students, opting for those that lead to trades paying a livable wage.

The survey results provide insight into entry wages that can help people who have decided to change careers pick a new occupation. In many cases, these people already have financial responsibilities that preclude them moving into a career that cannot support them.

The ability to compare wages for specific occupations state by state can be invaluable to people wanting or needing to relocate. They can determine whether their current occupation will continue generating the needed income in another area of Idaho or another state. An occupation that is in high demand and pays well in one state may be in limited demand in another state so the wage could be substantially less and insufficient to meet a person's financial needs.

A plethora of information is contained in this annual publication, and businesses and individuals alike are encouraged to take advantage of it. Find it at Imi.idaho.gov.

MINIMUM WAGE HIKE GIVES SOME HELP TO LOW-PAID WORKERS

Idaho's economic slowdown since the fall of 2007 boosted the number of additional jobs affected by the mandatory 70-cent-an-hour increase in the minimum wage on July 24.

Idaho Department of Labor Research and Analysis Supervisor Salvador Vazquez determined that nearly 42,000 of Idaho's 640,000 jobs – 6.5 percent – saw paychecks rise when the minimum wage increased from \$5.85 to \$6.55 an hour. That included the just under 20,000 jobs impacted when the minimum wage rose from \$5.15 to \$5.85 an hour on July 24, 2007. That was the first stage of the three-stage plan to hike the wage earned by Idaho's lowest paid workers to \$7.25 an hour on July 24, 2009.

Prior to the current phased-in increase, the minimum wage remained unchanged since it was raised from \$4.75 to \$5.15 in September 1997. Over the following decade, Idaho's average wage rose about 47 percent, from \$11.56 to \$16.98 an hour this year. The cost of living rose about 35 percent over the same period. And the first increase in the minimum wage was last year at 13.6 percent followed by 12 percent this year.

The median wage in Idaho was \$13.79 an hour, meaning that more than half the jobs in the state paid over twice as much as a minimum wage job, even after the latest increase.



In 2007 as Congress debated increasing the federal minimum wage, the Idaho Legislature voted to make the state minimum the same as the federal, eliminating the possibility of months of disparity between the two as has occurred in the past because the Idaho Legislature only meets during the winter each year.

The Labor Department analysis found that nearly 60 percent of those 42,000 jobs affected by this year's minimum wage increase were in the retail and the hospitality sectors, primarily food service, bars and hotels. In any number of those jobs, workers also receive tips. In those cases, the minimum wage did not change on July 24 but remained steady at \$3.35 an hour. Under the law, however, employers must ensure that tips bring the total wage up to \$6.55 an hour or they have to make up the difference in cash.

Overall, the analysis determined that employers will spend an extra \$24.6 million over the year to cover the minimum wage increase. That is 0.11 percent of the more than \$22 billion they will spend on total payroll.

The department analysis did not include the additional costs employers are incurring in Social Security payments, unemployment insurance taxes and workers' compensation premiums or any pay raises they may feel are necessary for employees making just above the new minimum wage to maintain the spacing between their wages and those of co-workers benefiting from the higher minimum wage.

A 2006 analysis found that about 50,000 jobs would have been affected by raising the minimum wage to \$6.55 an hour and over 80,000 by raising it to \$7.25. But the state's strong economic performance from mid-2005 through summer 2007 pushed unemployment to record lows, prompting employers to boost wages more than they normally would to continue to attract qualified workers.

The latest analysis determined that about 67,000 jobs currently pay less than \$7.25 an hour. That would include the 42,000 affected by this year's increase to \$6.55.

The average wage for all jobs in Idaho rose about 5.7 percent in 2006, one of the strongest annual wage gains the state has experienced. Average retail wages increased 5.5 percent while average wages in restaurants, bars and hotels rose 6.4 percent.

But in 2007, average wages for all jobs were up less than 3 percent, and while hourly wages in retail also rose somewhat, paychecks were generally lower as employers moved to more part-time shifts. Average wages in the hospitality sector matched the overall increase.

A recent department survey found employers reporting that over a third of their workers were part-time now, up for just over a fifth just three years earlier.

Impact of Minimum Wage Hike by Region				
Region	Total Workers	# Under \$6.55	% Under \$6.55	Cost of Increase
Panhandle	82,620	5,130	6.2	\$3,126,528
North Central	41,420	2,800	6.8	\$1,552,996
Southwest	304,060	16,870	5.5	\$10,069,232
South Central	73,930	6,020	8.1	\$3,484,171
Southeast	57,250	4,230	7.4	\$2,342,294
East Central	81,380	6,690	8.2	\$4,029,049
Statewide	640,660	41,740	6.5	\$24,604,270
Source: Idaho Department of Labor.				

MINIMUM WAGE IMPACT BY REGION

The percentage of jobs paying under \$6.55 was markedly higher on the eastern side of the state, reflecting the regions' relative wage scales and the pressures they have come under.

Panhandle employers have had to come to grips with the fact that competitors just across the line in Washington are paying a minimum wage of \$8.07 an hour, forcing them to boost wages just to attract competent workers.

Wages have also been under some pressure in southwestern Idaho, which is dominated by the Boise metropolitan area – the state's business and government center. Unemployment in the metro area had been under 3 percent for nearly two years before rising again this spring.

North central Idaho did not enjoy the economic growth much of the rest of the state did over the past five years. But employers in its major communities of Lewiston and Moscow also face competition from the \$8.07 minimum wage in bordering Washington cities.

South central, southeastern and east central Idaho have not had the same border pressure, and their overall wage scales are lower than on the western side of the state.

Regionally, the Panhandle includes Boundary, Bonner, Benewah, Shoshone and Kootenai counties. North central Idaho includes Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties. Southwestern Idaho includes Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley and Washington counties. South central Idaho includes Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka and Twin Falls counties. Southeastern Idaho includes Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida and Power counties. East central Idaho includes Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison and Teton counties.

MINIMUM WAGE IMPACT BY INDUSTRY

The cost implications of complying with the higher minimum wage are relative to the number of workers in each industry earning under \$6.55 an hour. The hospitality sector has the highest concentration of low-wage workers. More than one in four made less than \$6.55 before the wage increase. One in 10 workers in the natural resources sector – primarily agriculture – was in that situation.

Minimum Wage Impact by Industry

Industry	Total Jobs	Jobs Under \$6.55	Percent Under \$6.55
All Industries	640,660	41,740	6.5
Leisure and Hospitality	61,060	16,912	27.7
Natural Resources and Mining	7,420	759	10.2
Other Services	15,110	1,310	8.7
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	135,230	9,854	7.3
Information	10,880	628	5.8
Professional and Business Services	83,280	3,073	3.7
Financial Activities	30,550	1,051	3.4
Education and Health Services	127,550	4,294	3.4
Public Administration	49,870	1,345	2.7
Construction	54,130	1,160	2.1
Manufacturing	66,890	1,366	2.0

Industry figures do not add to total because of rounding.

Source: Idaho Department of Labor.

But even sectors like construction, manufacturing and education, where wages are expected to be comparatively higher, still had a small percentage of jobs paying below \$6.55.

MINIMUM WAGE IMPACT BY OCCUPATIONS

About half of the over 700 standard occupations in the Idaho economy – 360 – have jobs paying less than \$6.55 an hour. The 25 occupations with the most jobs paying less than the new minimum wage accounted for over 70 percent of all the jobs benefiting from the wage increase.

Jobs as waiters and waitresses account for less than 2 percent of all the jobs in Idaho, but no other occupation had a higher percentage of jobs paying below \$6.55. Forty percent of Idaho’s waiters and waitresses made less than that before July 24. Better than one in three food preparation jobs – and that included fast food jobs – paid less. And a fifth of all cashiers – retail and otherwise – were paid less.



Top 25 Occupations Affected by Minimum Wage Hike in Idaho			
	Total Jobs	# Under \$6.55	% of Total
Total All Occupations	641,960	41,754	6.5
Waiters and Waitresses	10,920	4,372	40.0
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	11,860	4,162	35.1
Cashiers	14,200	2,970	20.9
Retail Salespersons	23,750	2,713	11.4
Office Clerks, General	18,070	1,453	8.0
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	4,340	1,219	28.1
Cooks, Fast Food	2,880	1,158	40.2
Laborers and Freight, Stock and Material Movers, Hand	9,680	1,110	11.5
Counter Attendants, Cafeteria, Food Concession and Coffee Shop	2,680	1,010	37.7
Dishwashers	2,730	957	35.1
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	9,280	939	10.1
Bartenders	2,310	820	35.5
Packers and Packagers, Hand	2,530	764	30.2
Interviewers, Except Eligibility and Loan	2,670	701	26.3
Graders and Sorters, Agricultural Products	1,720	648	37.7
Food Preparation Workers	3,760	630	16.8
Teacher Assistants	5,420	624	11.5
Dining Room and Cafeteria Attendants and Bartender Helpers	1,690	613	36.3
Child Care Workers	3,220	592	18.4
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	6,070	468	7.7
Cooks, Restaurant	3,920	454	11.6
Customer Service Representatives	12,650	399	3.2
Bookkeeping, Accounting and Auditing Clerks	9,280	385	4.1
Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerks	1,290	383	29.7
Hairdressers, Hairstylists and Cosmetologists	1500	366	24.4
Source: Idaho Department of Labor			

MINIMUM WAGE OCCUPATIONS BY REGION

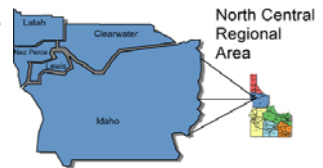
THE PANHANDLE – About 25 percent of the 554 occupations benefitted from the new minimum wage. Among those with the highest percentage of low-paid jobs were in food service including waiters, waitresses and bartenders, general office clerks, retail salespeople and cashiers.



Panhandle Occupation	Total Workers	# Under \$6.55	% of Total
Total All Occupations	82,620	5,130	6.2
Waiters and Waitresses	1,360	604	44
Office Clerks, General	2,280	533	23
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	1,760	435	25
Retail Salespersons	3,350	348	10
Cashiers	1,990	263	13
Bartenders	620	192	31
Counter Attendants, Cafeteria, Food Concession and Coffee Shop	400	188	47
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	650	188	29
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	1,160	173	15
Food Preparation Workers	930	139	15
Dishwashers	370	133	36
Dining Room and Cafeteria Attendants and Bartender Helpers	330	121	37
Sailors and Marine Oilers	170	89	52
Driver/Sales Workers	370	82	22
Packers and Packagers, Hand	330	78	24

Source: Idaho Department of Labor.

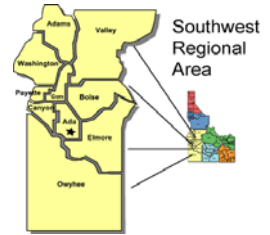
NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO – The least diverse of the regions with just 455 occupations, 113 paid below \$6.55 an hour. Retail salespersons and cashiers accounted for the most jobs followed by maids and housekeepers, waiters and waitresses and fast food jobs.



North Central Idaho Occupation	Total Workers	#Under \$6.55	% of Total
Total all occupations	41,420	2,800	6.8
Cashiers	1,110	269	24
Retail Salespersons	1,460	243	17
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	590	229	39
Waiters and Waitresses	690	208	30
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	600	188	31
Office Clerks, General	1,180	131	11
Counter Attendants, Cafeteria, Food Concession and Coffee Shop	250	106	42
Bartenders	290	91	31
Food Preparation Workers	260	65	25
Child Care Workers	190	59	31
Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services	380	56	15
Dishwashers	150	53	35
Biological Technicians	150	48	32
Cooks, Restaurant	430	48	11
Hairdressers, Hairstylists and Cosmetologists	200	47	24

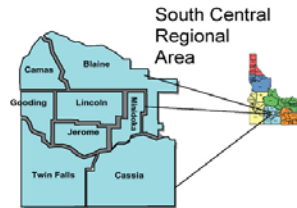
Source: Idaho Department of Labor.

SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO – The most diverse region in the state with 642 different occupations had 195 that paid below the new minimum wage. Restaurant and food preparation jobs along with retail sales accounted for nearly half the jobs in the region that had been paying less than \$6.55 an hour. Somewhat surprisingly, nearly 400 teacher assistants and over 300 child care workers also made less than the new minimum wage.



Southwestern Idaho Occupation	Total Workers	# Under \$6.55	% of Total
Total All Occupations	304,060	16,870	5.5
Waiters and Waitresses	5,320	2,238	42
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	6,090	2,192	36
Retail Salespersons	11,760	1,103	9
Cashiers	5,770	954	17
Counter Attendants, Cafeteria, Food Concession and Coffee Shop	1,510	520	34
Office Clerks, General	7,770	507	7
Laborers and Freight, Stock and Material Movers, Hand	4,360	469	11
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	4,030	443	11
Dishwashers	1,420	440	31
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	1,710	430	25
Teacher Assistants	1,810	395	22
Cooks, Fast Food	1,110	384	35
Child Care Workers	1,970	317	16
Dining Room and Cafeteria Attendants and Bartender Helpers	830	276	33
Packers and Packagers, Hand	940	265	28
Source: Idaho Department of Labor.			

SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO – Nearly a third of the 479 occupations had jobs paying under \$6.55 an hour. Fast food cooks and workers, waiters and waitresses, retail clerks and cashiers accounted for over a third of the jobs benefiting from this summer’s increased minimum wage. Over 100 teaching jobs were also under the new minimum.

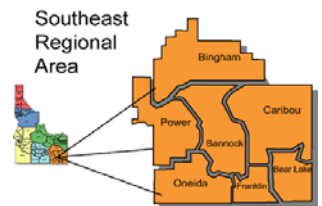


South Central Idaho Occupation	Total Workers	# Under \$6.55	% of Total
Total All Occupations	73,930	6,020	8.1
Cashiers	2,000	650	33
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	1,320	565	43
Waiters and Waitresses	1,120	499	45
Retail Salespersons	2,820	315	11
Cooks, Fast Food	650	264	41
Packers and Packagers, Hand	650	238	37
Office Clerks, General	2,490	217	9
Laborers and Freight, Stock and Material Movers, Hand	1,930	158	8
(cont. on next page)			

South Central Idaho Occupation (continued from previous page)	Total Workers	# Under \$6.55	% of Total
Total All Occupations	73,930	6,020	8.1
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	1,190	138	12
Dishwashers	280	131	47
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	720	129	18
Bartenders	310	122	39
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	220	119	54
Teachers and Instructors, All Other	270	119	44
Dining Room and Cafeteria Attendants and Bartender Helpers	250	118	47

Source: Idaho Department of Labor.

SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO – In a region that has not experienced growth as strong as other areas of the state, 149 of the 487 occupations had jobs paying less than the new minimum wage. Food service and retail jobs again accounted for more than a third of those paying under \$6.55.



Southeastern Idaho Occupation	Total Workers	# Under \$6.55	% of Total
Total All Occupations	57,250	4,230	7
Retail Salespersons	1,810	403	22
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	700	302	43
Waiters and Waitresses	950	283	30
Cashiers	1,200	277	23
Cooks, Fast Food	440	228	52
Graders and Sorters, Agricultural Products	540	170	31
Interviewers, Except Eligibility and Loan	500	155	31
Office Clerks, General	1,720	133	8
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	350	118	34
Counter Attendants, Cafeteria, Food Concession and Coffee Shop	200	93	47
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	1,390	91	7
Packers and Packagers, Hand	320	83	26
Laborers and Freight, Stock and Material Movers, Hand	730	81	11
Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services	290	80	28
Child Care Workers	230	78	34

Source: Idaho Department of Labor.

EAST CENTRAL IDAHO – More diverse than the farming country and high desert would indicate, jobs in 166 of the 529 occupations paid less than \$6.55. Retail and food service jobs were again the most prevalent among the lowest paid, but there were nearly 500 market research and other telephone interviewing jobs along with 300 agricultural product grader and sorter jobs that fell into the low-pay category. See table on page 9.



East Central Idaho Occupation	Total Workers	# Under \$6.55	% of Total
Total All Occupations	81,380	6,690	8
Cashiers	2,130	556	26
Waiters and Waitresses	1,470	540	37
Interviewers, Except Eligibility and Loan	1,170	490	42
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	1,390	480	35
Graders and Sorters, Agricultural Products	690	311	45
Retail Salespersons	2,540	301	12
Laborers and Freight, Stock and Material Movers, Hand	1,270	290	23
Office Clerks, General	2,620	242	9
Cooks, Short Order	560	233	42
Cooks, Fast Food	480	208	43
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	510	153	30
Dishwashers	360	149	41
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	1,110	147	13
Teacher Assistants	1,300	111	9
Packers and Packagers, Hand	230	95	41
Source: Idaho Department of Labor.			

ANNUAL COSTS OF THE HIGHER MINIMUM WAGE

The average annual benefit to workers or cost to employers with the higher minimum wage will be just under \$583 statewide. Regionally, the average cost per worker ranges from nearly \$555 in north central Idaho to more than \$609 in the Panhandle.

Hourly costs were the basis of the analysis, requiring certain assumptions – that full-time employees work 40 hours a week for 52 weeks while part-time employees work 20 hours a week for 40 weeks.

Research by the Idaho Department of Labor describes the full-time to part-time work force composition by industry and region. These employment ratios allow estimation of labor costs regionally.

Areas paying lower wages, reflected in the higher average annual costs of compliance, will incur greater increases in paychecks to comply with the new minimum. Areas with more workers earning less than \$6.55 will incur cost adjustments relative to the size of the low-wage labor force.

Cost of Complying With the Minimum Wage Increase						
Region	Total Jobs	Jobs Under \$6.55	% Full-time	Hourly Cost to Comply	Total Annual Cost	Avg Annual Cost Per Job
Panhandle	82,620	5,130	71.6	\$1,821	\$3,126,528	\$609.46
North central	41,420	2,800	59.6	\$994	\$1,552,996	\$554.64
Southwestern	304,060	16,870	68.9	\$5,989	\$10,069,232	\$596.87
South central	73,930	6,020	64.9	\$2,137	\$3,484,171	\$578.77
Southeastern	57,250	4,230	59.4	\$1,502	\$2,342,294	\$553.73
East central	81,380	6,690	70.0	\$2,375	\$4,029,049	\$602.25
Statewide	640,660	41,740	65.7	\$14,818	\$24,702,891	\$582.62
Source: Idaho Department of Labor.						

MINIMUM WAGE SIMULATION METHODOLOGY

To determine the impact of a 70-cent increase in Idaho’s minimum wage, hourly wages were identified for those workers whose hourly wages fell between the current minimum wage of \$5.85 and the new minimum wage of \$6.55. The analysis used published and non-published data from the Idaho Occupational Employment and Wage Survey statistical report for 2007, compiled by the Idaho Department of Labor in spring 2008.

That information details wages at specific percentiles by industry, occupation within industry and geographic location. With the use of probability principles, the number of workers was estimated for each wage percentile, and then their current hourly rates were subtracted from \$6.55 to determine the cost to adjust to the new minimum wage.

If 100 workers in a specific industry were earning \$6.20 per hour, the cost to bring these 100 workers to \$6.55 an hour would be 100 x \$0.35 = \$35 per hour. Similarly, if 100 workers were paid only \$5.85 an hour, it would cost their employers an additional 70 cents each or 100 x \$0.70 = \$70 per hour to bring them up to \$5.85.

Wages for agricultural occupations are shown only for workers covered by Idaho’s unemployment insurance law.

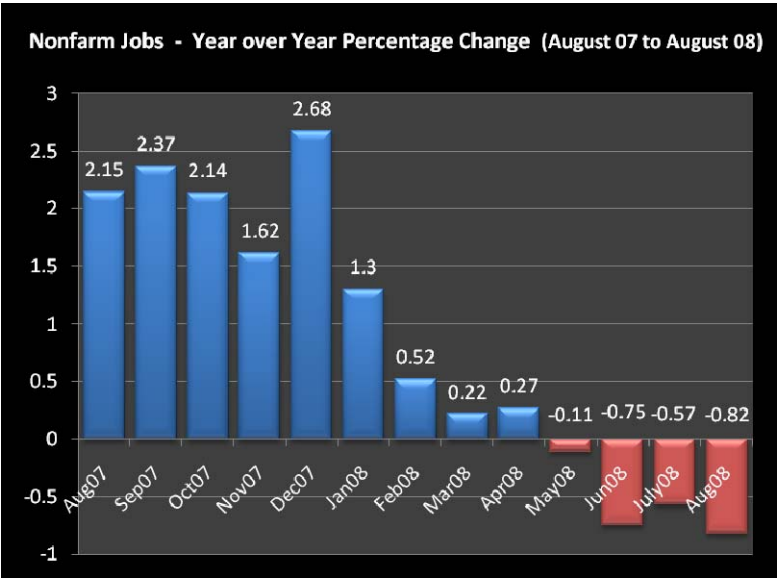
Bob Fick, Communication Manager
(208) 332-3570 ext. 3628
bob.fick@labor.idaho.gov

AUGUST CURRENT EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATE

Idaho’s seasonal summer upswing added fewer jobs than typical for the last few years. Construction and manufacturing continued to perform well below year-ago levels while the health care industry was the only one relatively untouched by the weakening job market.

Two-thousand jobs were added to Idaho’s nonfarm payrolls in August to total 660,900. This represents a 0.3 percent increase, which is a tenth-of-a-percent below the average August month-to-month growth of 0.47 percent. This is the weakest job growth for this month since 2002 in the aftermath of the national recession. Year-over-year Idaho had 5,500 fewer jobs than in 2007, a decline of 0.82 percent. This was the deepest August-to-August drop since the 1986 decline of 3.6 percent. August is the fourth consecutive month that Idaho jobs have run below year-earlier levels.

July-August results were mixed for Idaho’s various industrial sectors. Construction added 200 jobs for a 0.38 percent increase. This is less than half of the increase that is normally expected between July



and August. Manufacturing shed 700 jobs, leading to a decline of 1 percent. Additionally, trade, transportation and utilities contracted by 300 jobs.

Changes from the year-earlier levels continue to be in marked contrast from previous years. Natural resources, information, government and education and health services show jobs at or above August 2007. Construction and manufacturing remained considerably below. Combined these two sectors account for almost 10,000 fewer jobs this August than last. Construction claimed a slight majority at 4,800 with manufacturing losing 4,100 jobs. In the other sectors, there were 1,600 fewer jobs in trade, transportation and utilities, a 1.23 percent decline, and professional and business services were down 1,200 jobs or 1.36 percent.

Over the last five years, August has brought a modest but welcome increase in nonfarm employment. Last year, as the effects of the economic slowdown were starting to be felt, September had its weakest job growth of 0.17 percent since 1976, the last time nonfarm jobs were lower in September than the year before. Given this history, September should provide at least a modest increase in payroll jobs.

See accompanying graphs below and on the next page.

*Craig Shaul, Research Analyst Senior
(208) 332-3570 ext. 3201
craig.shaul@labor.idaho.gov*

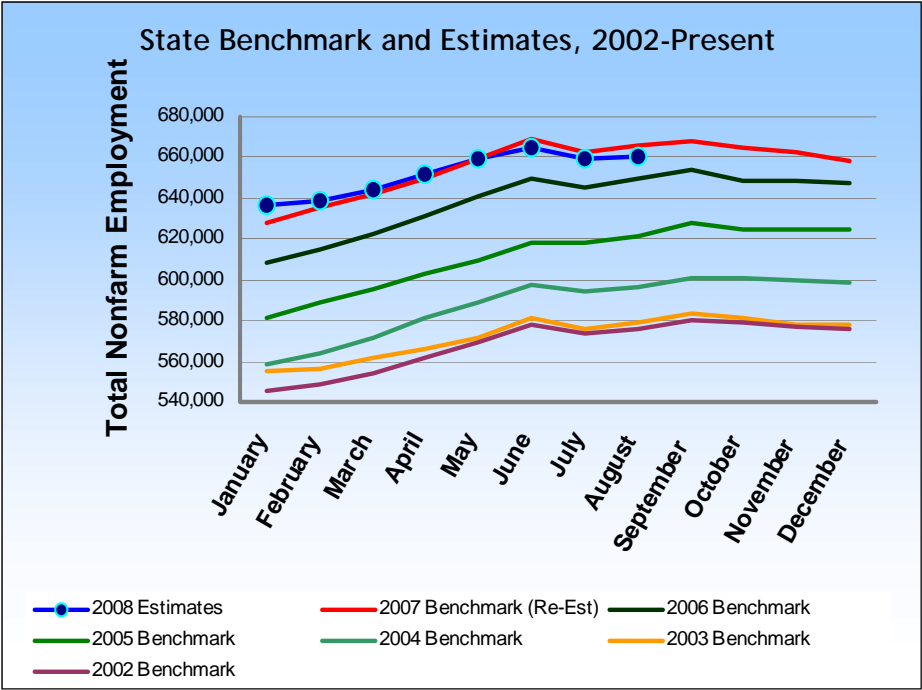


Figure 2: July to August 2008 Change in Nonfarm Employment by Industry

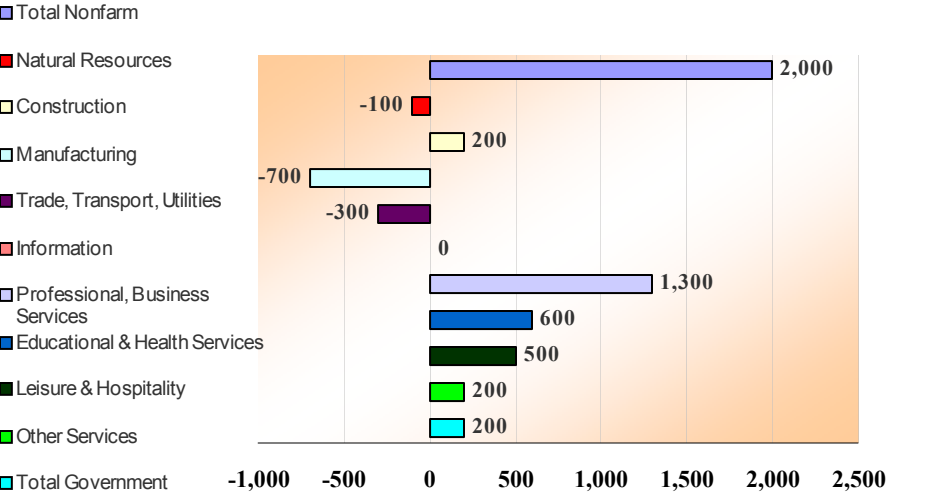


Figure 3: July to August 2008 Change in Nonfarm Employment Compared to 5-Year Average

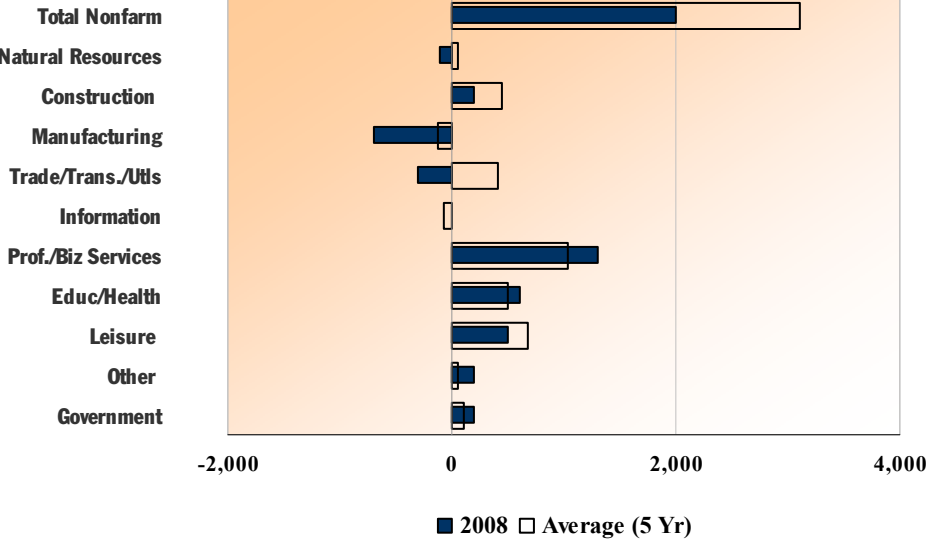


Figure 4: August 2007 to August 2008 Change in Nonfarm Employment by Industry

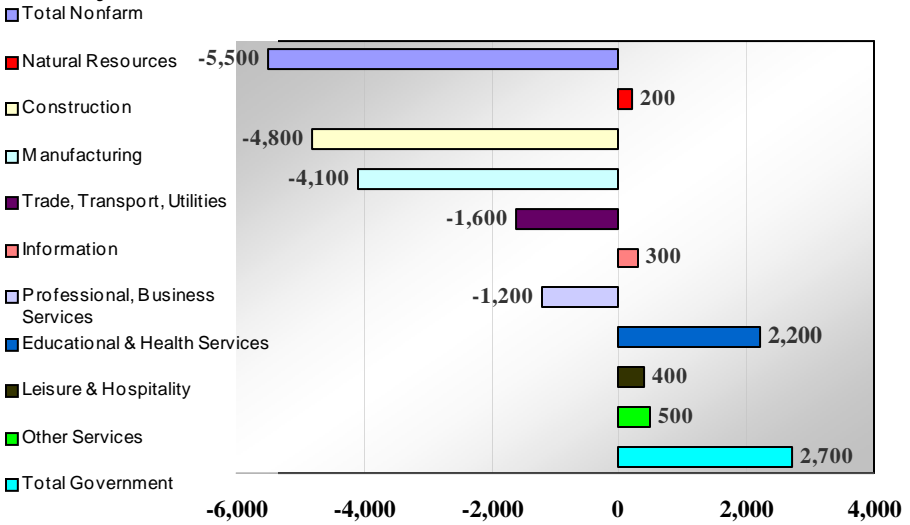
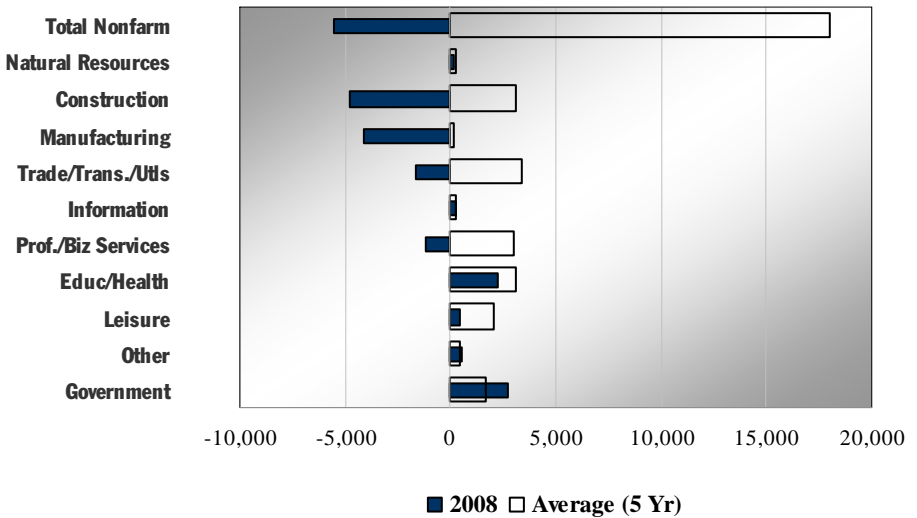


Figure 5: August 2007 to August 2008 Change in Nonfarm Employment Compared to 5-Year Average



PANHANDLE

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone counties

REGION RECEIVES WORK FORCE PLANNING GRANT

The Idaho Department of Labor has been awarded a \$250,000 federal grant to develop a strategic plan for expanding the regional economy of the five Panhandle counties beyond forest products.

"This comes at an important time for the region, where mills have been curtailing hours or closing altogether," said Vicki Isakson, assistant manager of the Coeur d'Alene Department of Labor office, who has been a leader for the department in working with manufacturers and other business associations to diversify the economy. "It's critical to broaden the region's economic base, and that will require new skills in its work force."

The Regional Innovation Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor will finance mapping the area's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and risks based on its assets to define strategies for talent development focused on the advanced manufacturing, aerospace, biomedical and biotechnology sectors.

"This grant will assist the Idaho Panhandle's plans to prepare its work force for careers in emerging regional industries," said Deputy Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training Brent R. Orrell of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Over the next 18 months, the Idaho Department of Labor will work with local experts in economic and work force development, education and training and business expansion in those counties to finalize the plan.

Regional Innovation Grants are drawn under the National Emergency Grant program to assist state and local work force developers and their key partners to provide strategies for specific regions to meet the economic demands of the 21st Century.

TOURISM HOLDS ITS OWN

Despite a flagging U.S. economy and high gasoline prices, the Panhandle's tourism industry appears to have held its own this summer. Increased visits by Canadians, drawn by the weakening U.S. dollar, made up for the decrease in U.S. visitors. In addition, the opening of the Aftershock rollercoaster at the Silverwood Theme Park attracted a good number of visitors from the Seattle area as well as eastern Washington and northern Idaho. Hotel-motel receipts totaled \$10 million in the Panhandle this July, up 2 percent over last July.

SHOSHONE, KOOTENAI COUNTIES RECEIVE DISASTER AID

The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security notified Shoshone and Kootenai counties on July 31 that the president had declared a major disaster as a result of last spring's flooding, clearing the way for federal aid to repair the damage to public facilities and infrastructure. The East Side Highway District suffered over \$1 million in damage to its roads alone. Kootenai County will receive \$200,000 to help defray the cost of protective measures during the flooding. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe received \$3,600 to repair its park facilities. Shoshone County racked up \$500,000 in damage to roads and bridges, and an additional \$200,000 is for protective measures.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

BENEWAH COUNTY

- Plummer will receive a \$7.3 million package of federal grants and loans to build a new sewage treatment plant. Two years ago the city imposed a moratorium on building because of insufficient sewage treatment capacity. The moratorium will remain until the new treatment plant begins operating in late 2010. Until then, property owners cannot develop their land, and new businesses cannot move to the community of nearly 1,000. Plummer passed a \$4 million bond in 2007 to help finance the \$12 million project.
- Tortilla Inc. is opening a Mexican restaurant at the St. Maries Golf Course in September. The building at the golf course is jointly owned by Benewah County and the city of St. Maries. The restaurant there has been closed for nearly a year. The city and county have been looking for a suitable business to run the restaurant and bar. Tortilla Inc. is a Coeur d'Alene-based company that owns several Casa de Oro restaurants.

BONNER COUNTY

- JD Lumber announced Aug. 3 that it was selling its Priest River mill to Riley Creek Lumber and would lay off its 216 employees on Oct. 3. Riley Creek will determine whether to reopen the mill next spring. In the meantime, it may be able to hire up to 70 of the laid off workers for its mills in Laclede, Moyie Springs and Chilco. As many as 20 others have already found new jobs, but that still leaves 125 without work. On Aug. 23, JD laid off its entire second shift early because it did not have enough logs to cover their pay-checks.

The workers dislocated by the mill closure are receiving assistance from the Idaho Department of Labor office in Sandpoint. Whenever there is a mass layoff, the department provides rapid response services for the dislocated workers. At recent group orientations for the JD Lumber workers, job counselors provided information about unemployment insurance, employment services, retraining opportunities and employee rights. Dislocated workers also may receive one-on-one counseling and any services that will help them transition back into good jobs.

- The partially finished 18-hole golf course at the Idaho Club, a development near Hope formerly known as Hidden Lakes, opened Aug. 13. As club members and the media looked on, course designer Jack Nicklaus played the 11 holes currently completed.
- The 26th season of the Festival at Sandpoint was a success. The annual two-week festival features a wide variety of music from classical to country and reggae to rock. It also provides workshops for youth to learn about music. Ticket sales were up about 5 percent over last year when it sold 530,000 tickets.
- Lake Pend Oreille School District soon will start construction on additional classrooms at Kootenai Elementary and Sagle Elementary schools. It has been more than 20 years since voters have approved building projects in the school district. The two-year, \$14.1 million plant facilities levy passed this spring includes \$6.8 million for the two schools. This summer, the district awarded numerous bids for projects funded by the levy, including a new fire alarm system at Sandpoint Middle School, a digitally controlled ventilation system at Hope Elementary, a modular classroom at Washington Elementary, school buses, rewiring of computer networks at Sandpoint Middle and Lake Pend Oreille High schools and the purchase of network switches. It also has completed asbestos removal at several schools.

BOUNDARY COUNTY

- The recent merger of Riley Creek Lumber and Bennett Forest Industries has turned into 11 new jobs at Riley Creek's mill in Moyie Springs as it prepared to ramp up production 25 percent. The merger has given the new company more opportunities to build relationships with large customers including Home Depot and Lowe's.
- Boundary County commissioners recently approved an 11-mile bicycle route to be called "A River Runs Through It" that would run along the Kootenai River from the Boundary County Fairgrounds to the Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center along Riverside Road. Riders could then connect to the refuge's 6-mile Auto Tour loop, which winds through a portion of the 2,744-acre refuge. The round-trip route, which will be funded by the local Rotary Club, would be the first officially-designated bicycle route in the county.

KOOTENAI COUNTY

- A Moscow farmer, nationally known for her organic foods and her celebration of the rural lifestyle, recently opened her first retail store in the Plaza Shops next to the Coeur d'Alene Resort. MaryJane Butters sells her organic foods online. The MaryJanesFarm store will not sell food. It will sell organic bedding, table linens, towels, furniture, kitchenware, candles, soaps and cookbooks. The store will feature her Project F.A.R.M. hand-crafted offerings

FINDING AND RETAINING WORKERS:

A discussion for employers

Join us for a continental breakfast and chat with
Bobby Ball, Executive Director of the
Idaho Task Force on the Americans with Disabilities Act

Tuesday, Sept. 16 ♦ 7:30-8:30 a.m.

**Idaho Department of Labor
1221 W. Ironwood Drive #200
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814**

Learn about the **Job Accommodation Network – J.A.N.**
An organization providing free assistance and advice to
employers on attracting good employees and making
workplace accommodations.

Sponsored by:

Idaho Task Force on the Americans with Disabilities Act

Hosted by:

Disability Action Center & the Idaho Department of Labor

Please call for reservations at
664-9896, Disability Action Center OR
769-1558 ext. 3996, Idaho Department of Labor

made by rural craftsmen including many from the Inland Northwest. In addition, it will offer cooking and sewing classes.

- Spirit Lake in western Kootenai County celebrated its centennial Labor Day weekend with high hopes for the next 100 years. The town, which was devastated after its lumber mill burned in 1939, went through some hard times, but things definitely have been looking up. It now has a bank and dentist office and a growing list of businesses that have converted eyesores into attractive places. Just in time for the party, the centennial committee created a self-guided walking tour focusing on the two blocks of downtown's Maine Street listed on the National Historic Register. The guide includes a map and the history of each of the 17 buildings and the City Park.
- ROW Adventures recently increased its space fourfold by moving to the former A.G. Edwards building in downtown Coeur d'Alene and consolidating its corporate office there. ROW is the largest adventure company in Idaho, offering whitewater rafting trips, canoeing, hiking, fly-fishing trips and the River Dance Lodge, an environmental-sensitive log cabin resort on the Clearwater River. Besides arranging trips in Idaho, ROW offers adventure trips to the Galapagos Islands and Jamaica, rafting and jungle lodging in the Amazon, barging in France, trekking in Algeria, exploring in Egypt and yachting in Croatia, Turkey, Greece, British Columbia and Alaska. Owner Peter Grubb started the company in 1979. ROW employs eight in Coeur d'Alene and 70 worldwide. National Geographic Adventure Magazine recently named it one of the "Best Outfitters on Earth."
- To keep up with the region's fast-growing population, Asthma & Allergy of Idaho is expanding. Currently under construction in Coeur d'Alene is a 10,000-square-foot office building. The new facility will allow specific serums to be mixed on site, speeding delivery times to patients. Also encouraging the expansion has been the escalating price of gasoline that is convincing many allergy sufferers to seek help locally rather than going to Spokane.
- Esterline Advanced Input Systems, formerly Advanced Input Devices, celebrated its 30th anniversary in August. Started by two keyboard experts in 1978, the company is still growing. Over the years it has developed many touchscreens, keyboards and control panels. Two years ago, it introduced the Medigenic line of infection-control keyboards for hospitals. It employs 350 people in Coeur d'Alene and may soon grow to 370.
- Kootenai Health broke ground in August on a \$14.6 million, 21,000-square-foot cancer center in Post Falls. Construction is expected to take about a year. About 20 people will work in the center.
- The next major project for Kootenai Health is a three-story addition to its Coeur d'Alene hospital. The Kootenai Health Women's and Children's Center would provide a new space for mothers and babies, making room for additional surgical space. Construction of the \$30 million, 52,000-square-foot building is expected to begin in April and be finished in about 20 months.

SHOSHONE COUNTY

- Shoshone County continues to grow at a rapid pace even as the U.S. economy slows. The county's nonfarm payroll jobs grew 6.8 percent between the first quarter of 2007 and the first quarter of 2008, outpacing the state's growth of 0.7 percent and the nation's growth of 0.6 percent. The jobs that are being added are generally high-paying. Total wages and salaries paid in Shoshone County grew an impressive 16 percent to \$38.5 million. The mining industry with an average annual wage per worker of \$61,000 added more than 200 jobs during that period while the tourism sector added 45

jobs. The mining industry continues to hire, and the tourism industry benefitted from this spring's opening of Silver Mountain's indoor water park. A handful of mill and logging jobs were lost, but other manufacturing operations made up the difference. Despite the national slowdown in auto sales, Dave Smith Motors continues to employ nearly 400 people. Other retailers are benefitting from the county's growing population, expanding tourism sector and rising incomes. The only sector that has declined during the last two years is the construction industry as residential construction fell from record highs.

*Kathryn Tacke, Regional Economist
(208) 769-1558 ext. 3984
kathryn.tacke@labor.idaho.gov*

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO

Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties

CLEARWATER COUNTY

- The Clearwater County Economic Development Council's highest priority is retaining and supporting existing businesses. Its Business Retention and Expansion Program involves one-on-one site visits by council staff with businesses. The council connects those businesses with the resources they need from local, state or federal agencies. Sometimes it will act as liaison for businesses. The council also will organize workshops and information seminars. It promotes partnerships between businesses that keep dollars in the local community. In the 12 months through June 30, the council worked with 33 businesses, helping them stay afloat, enabling businesses to expand and create 12 new jobs and working with six individuals start new businesses that generated nine new jobs.

IDAHO COUNTY

- Red River Hot Springs, a popular century-old resort in the backcountry 85 miles southeast of Grangeville, closed in August with no immediate plans to reopen. The hot springs is located on national forest land and operated as a private business through a special-use permit. The resort's former operator now is looking for someone to buy the pool and guest lodging.

LATAH COUNTY

- The city of Potlatch is receiving a \$500,000 community development block grant to replace more than two miles of 8-inch and 12-inch sewer mains and 50 manholes, and repair sewer lagoon embankments.

NEZ PERCE & ASOTIN COUNTIES

- Regence BlueShield of Idaho recently completed construction of an \$8.5 million, 445-space parking garage next to its three-story office building in Lewiston. With more parking available, BlueShield will be able to increase employment. The company boosted employment by 120 to 742 in Lewiston since the office building was finished two years ago. The top floor of the garage contains a 6,000-square-foot employee fitness center that costs workers just \$15 a month. The fee includes the services of a personal trainer, who does an initial consultation with all new members to design a plan to help them meet their goals. It also covers classes such as aerobics and spinning. Regence is trying to prove that performance improves when companies help their employees stay fit.
- CKA, a local architecture firm, is refurbishing the old Montgomery Ward store built in the 1930s. The architects expect to move their business to

the site on Main Street in downtown Lewiston by the end of September. CKA will occupy about one-third of each floor and seek tenants for the rest. It also continues to refine plans for the Liberty Theater, a downtown landmark it purchased in 2005 to transform into an event center. The theater contains a performing stage from the days it hosted vaudeville acts.

- Deteriorating economic conditions and the high price of fuel have decreased the demand for boats, causing some local jet boat builders to lay off workers. ThunderJet laid off about 30 workers at its Clarkston business while Renaissance Marine Group, also in Clarkston, laid off 22 workers. ThunderJet expects to rehire most of its laid-off employees as soon as orders from dealers pick up. Eventually it intends to expand. It currently is building a 15,000-square-foot addition to its plant. Besides dealing with lower demand, jet boat builders are beleaguered by high prices for aluminum, engines, cables, wire and other materials.
- Four conventions in June brought an estimated \$929,000 into the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley, according to the new director of tourism development for the Lewis-Clark Valley Hells Canyon Visitor Bureau. In the last few months, Lewiston and Clarkston have combined their efforts to promote tourism. The conventions included 350 Red Hat women, 150 members with the state Eagles Lodge, 200 people from Life on Wheels and 200 state American Legionnaires.

Kathryn Tacke, Regional Economist
(208) 769-1558 ext. 3984
kathryn.tacke@labor.idaho.gov

SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley & Washington counties

SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

- The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho is seeking public comments on a proposal to provide incentives to gas suppliers to install vapor recovery systems before next summer to reduce ozone pollution in the region. The project to begin Oct. 1 will be funded with a \$500,000 federal grant and \$500,000 from gas suppliers who install the systems. The Idaho departments of Environmental Quality and Transportation initiated discussions of the vapor recovery systems, and legislation will be proposed this winter requiring gas suppliers to install them.
- Allied Waste Services is asking most local governments where it operates in southwestern Idaho to approve surcharges to cover the rising cost of fuel. Caldwell, Ada County and Mountain Home have already done so and others are considering it. Caldwell residents are paying an extra 80 cents a month although senior citizens are being charged just 30 cents more. All Mountain Home customers began paying an extra dollar a month on Aug. 27. Ada County's surcharges vary by quarter.
- Whole Foods Market Inc. is still weighing a decision on whether a proposed new store planned for Downtown Boise will be canceled or delayed because of the company's disappointing profits. The company announced in early August that its net income fell 30 percent during its most recent quarter because of the soft economy and costs associated with its acquisition of the Wild Oats natural-food retail chain. The planned Boise store is expected to be part of a complex including a seven-story hotel and condominium tower next to the single-story natural foods store. The store would be topped by two floors of parking.

- Work is beginning this month on a new Caldwell campus for the Oregon-based Treasure Valley Community College. The \$6.5 million to \$7.5 million project is located in the Sky Ranch Business Center. Classes should begin there next year.
- The region may be seeing a general slowdown in construction, but there are millions of dollars of work under way or in the pipeline for Boise State University, where the student body is growing up to 3 percent a year. The school just completed the addition of luxury seats, private viewing boxes, a new press box and a merchandise store at the stadium. Under way are a nursing and life sciences building and expansion of the student union. Most of the new buildings are paid for through a combination of private donations and a university building fund that comes from student fees.
- Boise Cascade Holdings Inc. lost \$15.4 million in the second quarter of 2008 because of a \$20.4 million loss incurred on the sale of its 49 percent stake in Boise Inc. The company's wood products and building materials divisions were profitable during the quarter despite the nationwide housing slump. For the quarter ending June 30, the company reported the loss on sales of \$743 million. It earned \$29 million on sales of \$1.3 billion a year earlier.
- IdaCorp, the parent of Idaho Power Co., posted slightly lower second-quarter profits from the same quarter a year ago. IdaCorp reported net income of \$17.5 million, or 39 cents a share, compared with \$18.5 million, or 42 cents a share, in the second quarter of 2007. The Idaho Power subsidiary's profits rose to \$17.7 million from \$16.2 million, partly due to cost-containment efforts and more favorable operating conditions. But overall, IdaCorp net income dropped because of lower returns from its financial subsidiary and tax issues.
- Macy's is calling for its store at the Karcher Mall in Nampa in fall 2009 to open a larger store in the new Nampa Gateway Center at Interstate 84 east of the city. Macy's said current employees would transfer to the new location. While Macy's has said it will honor the recently signed five-year lease with the mall, mall officials are actively recruiting tenants and could have an opportunity to break that lease with a new tenant.
- A developer has bought 89 acres between Boise and Meridian for the proposed Meridian Town Center, a 258-acre development with more than 2.5 million square feet of retail, office and multi-family residential space with an upscale theater. The first phase, expected to open in September 2010, will offer more than 600,000 square feet of retail, restaurant and entertainment space, 100,000 square feet for offices and more than 100 residential units. It is being developed by CenterCal Properties of Tigard, Ore.
- An Eagle company is moving forward with a multibillion-dollar nuclear power plant in Idaho despite millions of dollars in losses so far. Auditors found Alternate Energy Holdings Inc. had such significant losses that its viability was in question. But the company calls its financial situation typical for startup companies.
- Mervyn's is closing its Boise Towne Square Mall store and 25 others in other states in an attempt to pull itself from the brink of bankruptcy. About 100 employees will be affected in Boise, and some 2,300 to 3,100 nationwide. The stores will close by late October or early November. The shutdowns, intended to reduce expenses and reverse losses, involve 15 percent of the retailer's 176 stores.
- Supervalu, the parent company of Albertsons, is laying off 100 information-technology workers including 24 in Boise. It is the second time this summer

that Supervalu has trimmed its local work force. In June, it announced that 80 employees in its finance department in Boise would be laid off over the next 12-18 months because the company was outsourcing accounts payable, vendor accounts receivable and enterprise asset management operations to India.

- Boise-based Best Bath has won approval to expand its fiberglass tub and shower manufacturing facility in Kuna. Best Bath plans to consolidate all of its manufacturing operations at Kuna's Swan Falls Business Park, expanding its existing facility from 22,000 square feet to 77,000 square feet. Expansion is conditional on a number of issues including limits on odor. The company will have about 140 employees and a \$7 million payroll in Kuna.
- Hewlett-Packard Co. posted a 14 percent increase in third quarter profits, beating Wall Street expectations on strong laptop sales and a robust international presence. HP said it earned \$2.03 billion, or 80 cents per share, in the latest period, up from \$1.78 billion, or 66 cents per share, a year earlier. Excluding one-time charges, HP's profit was 86 cents per share, three cents higher than the average estimate of analysts polled by Thomson Reuters.
- A California vitamin and health supplement maker is relocating to Star and will expand. The move gives Palmer Natural Products of San Jacinto room to grow while broadening the tax base for the small Ada County community and creating some new jobs. President Larry Leach said California taxes

BOISE-NAMPA AREA

Mature Worker Job Fair

Local companies will be recruiting for salaried and hourly positions in restaurants, hotels, management, education, customer service, health care, driving and transportation, warehousing and manufacturing, clerical and administrative and *more!*

This event is free to attend!

October 4, 2008 ♦ 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Meridian School District Building
1303 Central Drive ♦ Meridian, Idaho

Free workshops offered throughout the day

9:00-9:30 a.m. Job Search Strategy
9:30-10:00 a.m. Work Force Preparation and Training
10:00-10:45 a.m. Cover Letter and Résumé Development
10:45-11:30 a.m. Interviewing
11:30 a.m.-Noon Capitalizing on Job Fairs
Noon-12:30 p.m. Keeping Current
12:30-1:30 p.m. How AARP Can Help You Find A Job
1:30-2:15 p.m. Employer Recruitment and Retention
Workshop

For more information, log onto labor.idaho.gov for a map and directions and other updates as they develop or call 332-3570 ext. 3545.

This event is jointly sponsored by the Idaho Commission on Aging, Idaho Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service, AARP Idaho, Experience Works Inc., Professional Technical Education - Adult Basic Education/GED, SW Idaho Area Agency on Aging, a division of Sage Community Resources, Idaho State AFL-CIO, Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Meridian School District.

were rising every year, and as he looked around for a new facility, he wanted to be in a stable area. Leach also has family in the area.

- A Boise company is developing a device that may one day charge cell phones with electricity generated by walking. M2E Power Inc., a renewable-energy designer and developer, said its charger will be the first to tap motion-producing electromagnetic fields and convert the motion into electricity to store for use on mobile devices. The miniature chargers will be placed inside batteries that can fit into existing battery cases. For now, the company's efforts are focused largely on military applications.
- Whitetail Club and Resort in McCall has been sold to a partnership of Idaho businessmen that includes the son-in-law of previous owner Douglas "Papa Doug" Manchester and the grandson of Joe Albertson. Terms were not disclosed. The sale comes nearly two decades after Manchester, a San Diego developer, bought what was then called the Shore Lodge and spent tens of millions of dollars renovating it and adding an 18-hole golf course and housing development. Whitetail was sold to a company headed by Whitetail President John Sabala and Alscott Real Estate LLC of Boise. Sabala has been married to one of Manchester's daughters, Katie, since 1995 and was hired as resort president three years ago. Alscott Real Estate is headed by Joe Scott, the chairman of the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation and is the grandson of Joe Albertson.

*Bob Fick, Communications Manager
(208) 332-3570 ext. 3628
bob.fick@labor.idaho.gov*

SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO

Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka and Twin Falls counties

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

BLAINE COUNTY

- Sun Valley Lodge, owned by Sinclair Oil Corp., is concerned about the federal visa program for foreign nonfarm workers, called H2B, because it is at capacity, prohibiting the resort from hiring the 200 foreign workers it typically needs for the ski season. It may be able to hire just half that many. Apparently, July 29th is the earliest historically that the established cap of 66,000 has been reached, reflecting the increasing demand for service workers in the U.S. economy. To cope with previous worker shortages, the resort has used an alternative visa program that allows college students from other countries to work and travel in the United States. The Sun Valley Co. has also been actively recruiting from universities and colleges that are located in high unemployment regions of the United States for everything from desk clerks to ski instructors. The company has petitioned the U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services for extensions on current resort employees holding H2B visas.
- Sun Valley Co. has opened its newest golf course, White Clouds, and a posh 58,756 square-foot, four-story clubhouse/lodge christened the Sun Valley Club. The new clubhouse is positioned between the original course, now called Trail Creek, and the new nine-hole White Clouds course. In the future the underground first floor currently used for storage will be converted to a health spa with lap pool. The second floor garage houses the fleet of golf carts, separate storage for up to 350 golf bags plus a rental shop and storage for Nordic skis. The lodge offers a 12-acre driving range with spectacular views of Baldy, 52,000 square-foot putting course with 18 undulating

holes, chipping, pitching and bunker practice areas, an indoor driving range, virtual golf and indoor/outdoor seating at the restaurant and bar.

- Lion’s Park, a former landfill in Hailey, is being reclaimed for wildlife. The Wood River Land Trust is restoring the area adjacent to the Big Wood River at a cost of \$165,745. A grant from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality is covering 60 percent of the cost. The goal is to restore water quality and wildlife habitat ,and provide recreational and educational opportunities. A boardwalk to overlook beaver ponds will be installed and noxious weeds will be replaced with native plants and temporary irrigation.
- The cost of living negatively affects the ability for businesses to keep workers in Blaine County. A perfect storm is brewing with the Sheriff’s Department, which is down four patrolmen and a jailer. The department has only been fully staffed 3 percent of the time since 2000 so this is nothing new. However, the county has turned into a training ground for protective service workers paid much more in the private sector. New jailers start at \$16 an hour while new patrolmen start at \$18 an hour. Sheriff Walt Femling claims this is up to 20 percent below market rate for these types of jobs that entail odd hours, danger and high levels of stress.

TWIN FALLS COUNTY

- A major retailer in downtown Twin Falls is closing its doors after over 60 years, citing the downturn in the economy. Cain’s has been a design leader of higher end furniture for south central Idaho and vows to continue that tradition at its remaining location a half mile south of the mall. The downtown building will be converted into office space.
- Red’s Trading Post has moved from its downtown location to a site on the historical registry in the Old Towne area of Twin Falls. The move to the old Tribes furniture store gives Red’s double the square footage. Tribes has no plans to reopen a showroom in Twin Falls and will continue to operate its Ketchum store. Red’s Trading Post had been on the same downtown corner for over 70 years, but the Urban Renewal Agency targeted that four-block area for revitalization and bought Red’s property for \$200,000. A new city hall is planned for one corner as part of the \$40 million revitalization project.
- The Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce participates in quarterly surveys to compare costs of living across the nation. The most recent quarter shows the composite index for Twin Falls is 95.2 percent of the national average. Below is a list of specific living expenses in Twin Falls as a percent of the national average.

Grocery Items	102.0%
Housing	91.6%
Utilities	86.7%
Transportation	3.2%
Health Care	95.0%
Miscellaneous	95.8%
<i>Source: ACCRA, The Council for Community and Economic Research</i>	

- Jayco, the largest privately-held manufacturer of recreational vehicles in North America, has consolidated its operations on the east side of Twin Falls. The transportation manufacturing industry is realizing its slowest sales period in six years, and Jayco hopes cost containment, with all operations under one roof in its new plant, should improve the bottom line. The company plans on moving all personnel to the east location with no layoffs.

- Preservation Twin Falls, a non-profit organization, is seeing positive results in its campaign to save the historic grain silos built in 1916 in Old Towne. Land is being cleared around the silos for a park that will be a welcoming entrance to the city from the south. The group pooled \$30,000 towards the purchase of picnic tables, historic interpretive panels and landscaping. The silos will now be cleaned and painted with the integrity of the logo retained. The silos were last used in the 1980s. Plans call for the farmer's market to move there along with other businesses that will actually use the silos again.
- The Times-News newspaper has consolidated reporting on the surrounding communities into one publication and dissolved the South Idaho Press in Burley and Northside News in Jerome. Communities throughout south central Idaho will be featured on different days. Gooding and Lincoln counties will be covered on Tuesdays, Jerome County on Thursdays, Twin Falls County on Fridays and Cassia and Minidoka counties on Saturdays. The newspaper said there were no direct layoffs in the reorganization. Publications around the nation are tightening their belts and recalibrating their approach to delivering the news as subscriptions dip and the focus turns to the Internet.
- Castleford is building a new water tower that will reach 42 feet this month. New water meters have been installed throughout the city.
- Buhl had to close its Boys and Girls Club earlier this year, and ideas are churning regarding options for a future club. One calls for using the old high school where the club would have access to the gymnasium.
- A 16-bed assisted living facility will be built in Buhl. The 8,500-square-foot facility will be situated so the residents can enjoy parades and walk to bowling, rodeos and other community activities.
- Volunteerism and donations account for the purchase of a new service and brush fire truck in Buhl. The foam system on the truck has been demonstrated as truly effective in suppressing fires while the new four-wheel drive option allows fire fighters to get to places they previously could not during inclement weather.
- Kimberly, like many other towns, is experiencing the loss of farm fields to subdivisions to handle population growth. Kimberly's annual population growth has averaged 2.5 percent over the past five years. Professional and retail growth has followed. The latest ribbon cutting was at the Red Cap Corner office complex that includes First Federal as the anchor tenant. Center Plaza is the other office complex located in front of the middle school.

GOODING COUNTY

- The State Board of Education will keep the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind in Gooding for another three years at least. The current director cited federal disability laws that require the option of a residential learning facility. The school opened in 1910 with 54 students. Enrollment peaked a number of years ago and has dropped back to 70 residential students. Another 954 students received services in 2007-2008 through outreach programs that required a third-person translator for communication with other students and educators. Funding for the residential campus has been cut by \$620,000 over the last five years.
- The Idaho Public Utilities Commission approved a request from Idaho Power to purchase its first dose of methane gas-generated electricity from DF-AP#1 LLC of Ferndale, Wash., which uses an anaerobic digester installed at Big Sky Dairy near Gooding. An anaerobic digester will do its work on the manure from this large-scale dairy converting it to power that can be used

or sold on the open market. At the end of the 20-year contract, 1.5 megawatts of power will have been provided to customers of Idaho Power. This power is expected to begin being sold by February.

JEROME COUNTY

- The North Valley Academy opened its doors in Gooding this fall with 152 students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Emphasis is on basics such as history, social studies, mathematics and English. Students must stand to speak in the classroom and participation by all is encouraged. Enrollment is limited to 216 students. A high school curriculum will be added next year if at least 60 high school students enroll. The school received a three-year \$150,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education for computer labs and classroom furniture.
- Big Sky Dairy's request for a 13,000-head confined feeding operation is likely to be approved by the Jerome County Commission, which recently voted 2-1 for the project after 5th District Judge Richard Bevan ruled that the denial of the permit was unconstitutional. The operation would be just a mile from the Minidoka National Historic Site, and concerns about wildlife and tourism impacts have been voiced. The commissioners are looking into ways of mitigating the impact of the large dairy on the surrounding area, delaying a final vote.

MINIDOKA AND CASSIA COUNTIES

- The second phase of the historic Wilson's Theater renovation is almost finished and includes a brass and glass staircase, lobby and upstairs convention center. The three-phase project will cost \$3 million with \$1.3 million already coming from grants and donations. Community members have donated approximately \$250,000 worth of labor. The building is located on the Rupert Square, which contributed to the downtown revitalization when it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was constructed in the 1920s. After falling into disrepair, the theater was acquired by the city in 2000.
- Due to a rash of complaints, Pacific Ethanol has set up a hotline for citizens to report odor problems. The detailed reports should pinpoint patterns and sources so the problem can be fixed. A consultant has been brought in, and various inspections are becoming routine.
- High Desert Milk has begun production in Burley with over 40 employees. Based on the quality and number of new jobs, the company received \$40,000 from Business Plus, which encourages economic growth in the Magic Valley. High Desert Milk produces non-fat dry milk and whole milk powder along with dairy pharmaceuticals and supplies. High Desert Milk is owned by a cooperative of six dairies with 26,000 cows on 30,000 acres, processing 1.8 million pounds of milk a day. High Desert Milk had sales of \$75 million during 2007.
- The city of Burley has negotiated a new lease with the J.R. Simplot Co., who will pay a much higher rate in exchange for expanded use of the freezer space in the warehouse. The city had been getting \$100,000 a year for three years and now \$1 a year for five. But the new lease calls for \$15,000 a year for the next five years.
- JB Telecom has opened a communications business offering wireless, digital phone service, satellite TV, video phones and local and long distance land lines with the choice of a wide array of providers.
- The Cassia County Planning and Zoning Commission has approved a new 22-lot subdivision in Oakley, which has seen essentially no growth in the

last five years. Oakley’s population peaked in 1940 at 813. In 2007, the population was estimated at 696.

- Acupuncture is now available in Burley at Acupuncture Works operated by Mark Dunlap and Cindy Dunlap. With over 20 years of experience, the couple offers natural health care in addition to acupuncture, including massage therapy, reflexology and botanical medicine.

USDA REPORTS JULY FARM LABOR

For the Mountain States Region of the United States, which consists of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, there were 30,000 hired workers on farms and ranches during the week of July 6, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Hired laborers worked an average of 44 hours during the survey week at an average wage of \$10 per hour.

Nationally, farm operators paid their workers an average wage of \$10.34 per hour during the July 2008 reference week - up 35 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average wage of \$9.66 per hour - up 42 cents from the previous July. Livestock workers earned \$9.98 per hours compared with \$9.73 a year earlier.

IDAHO DAIRY FACTS

- 2005 Idaho raw milk sales — \$1.37 billion
- 2007 Idaho raw milk sales — \$2.04 billion

2007 DAIRY INDUSTRY JOBS

- Dairies — 7,535
- Dairy processors — 1,725
- Dairy supply industries — 13,470

*Jan Roeser, Regional Economist
(208) 769-1558 ext. 3984
Jan.roeser@labor.idaho.gov*

SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida & Power counties

ECONOMIC TRENDS

In another sign of slowing economic activity, the July unemployment rate for the Pocatello metropolitan area rose two-tenths of a percent. Typically the rate does not change from June to July, and if it does it is by only a tenth up or down. The last time the metro area’s unemployment rate increased by two-tenths of a point from June to July was 2001 in the midst of the national recession. At that time the rate rose from 4.7 percent in June to 4.9 percent in July.

Uncertainty and concerns about inflation, energy costs, the slump in the housing market and the instability of the financial markets are plaguing the local economy just as they are the national economy. But the impact on nonfarm jobs has not manifested itself in the Pocatello area as it has nationally. See the table below for more detail.

Year-Over-Year Changes in Number of Jobs				
	Service-Provider Jobs		Goods-Producing Jobs	
	Pocatello Metro Area	Nationally	Pocatello Metro Area	Nationally
Jul 2007	32,440	115,695,000	5,700	22,427,000
Jul 2008	31,290	116,161,000	5,540	21,454,000
% change	-3.50%	0.40%	-2.80%	-4.40%

On a year over year basis, metro Pocatello posted a 2.8 percent drop in goods-producing jobs while the decline nationally was nearly 4.5 percent. In the service sector, however, there was a 0.4 percent increase in jobs while Pocatello saw a 3.5 percent decrease. The leisure and hospitality industry in the area lost 690 jobs, reflecting employer caution about hiring during the slowdown and the closure of some smaller eating establishments.

Governmental administration is also shedding jobs as officials appear reluctant to fill vacancies because of concern over declining tax receipts.

Financial services held its own from June to July, bucking the national trend. Additional workers to man the new Advantage and Potelco Credit Union offices offset reductions in title company employment because of the slowdown in the real estate market.

OLDER WORKERS PROMOTED

This year National Employ Older Workers Week is Sept. 23-29 to remind employers of the importance older workers have in the country's economy.

The U.S. Department of Labor currently projects 41.2 percent of Americans 55 and older will be participating in the civilian labor force by 2014, making up over 21 percent of the total work force.

The reasons older workers continue to be an increasing factor in the work force vary, but there seems to be several reasons that are most often identified. First, a larger percent of the general population is now considered to be in the older worker category because of aging baby-boomers. Also the availability of better health care is allowing people to live longer, healthier and more productive lives. Many older workers think they may not stay healthy if they are not working in some capacity or another. Working allows them to feel more connected to their communities and less likely to feel alone. And some older workers need to work longer because they have not saved enough money to live the life style they want in retirement.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number of U.S. workers 65 and older increased 35.3 percent between July 2003 and July 2008.

The second quarter of 2007 is the most current statistics available for similar county level data. The rate of increase of older workers in Idaho and southeastern Idaho is even more pronounced than the national rate between spring 2002 to the spring 2007. The statewide labor force grew 10 percent and the southeastern Idaho labor force 1 percent in that period while the number of older workers increased 46 percent statewide and in the region. See the table below for more detail.

Number of Older Workers in State & Region, 2nd Quarter 2002 Compared to 2nd Quarter 2007				
	2nd qtr 2002	2nd qtr 2007	# change	% change
Idaho Labor Force	682,573	753,741	71,168	10%
Idaho Workers Over 65	13,945	20,388	6,443	46%
Idaho Male Workers Over 65	7,744	11,350	3,606	47%
Idaho Female Workers Over 65	6,201	9,038	2,837	46%
Percent of Older Workers	2.04%	2.70%		
Southeast Idaho labor force	57,019	63,078	6,059	11%
SE Idaho Workers Over 65	1,413	2,062	649	46%
SE Idaho Male Workers Over 65	790	1,200	410	52%
SE Idaho Female Workers Over 65	623	862	239	38%
Percent of Older Workers	2.48%	3.27%		

The increase of older workers remaining in and returning to the work force is generally considered positive for employers. Older workers rate high in terms of judgment, commitment to quality, loyalty, attendance and punctuality. They have a lower turnover rate and often serve as mentors for younger employees, which allows employers to spend less time and money on training.

Unfortunately for some older workers, their jobs end before they are ready to retire. Often these workers need additional training to upgrade their skills to qualify for new employment. And some older workers have neither applied or been interviewed for a job in many years. Those workers often need help in their job search. The U.S. Department of Labor has recognized the need for such services through the Senior Community Service Employment Program, which is designed to provide training and job placement assistance to seniors with limited resources. As part of the training program, participants are placed in part-time jobs with nonprofit agencies. During that time the worker's salary is paid by the program, and at the conclusion of the training period workers are better prepared to find employment with a private employer or they may be hired by the nonprofit itself.

The program contacts in the Department of Labor are:

- Judy Gray in the Coeur d'Alene office at (208) 769-1558 ext. 3980 or judy.gray@labor.idaho.gov
- Craig Smith in the Lewiston office at (208) 799-5000 ext. 3522 or craig.smith@labor.idaho.gov
- Chuck Vanderhoff in the Boise office at (208) 332-3575 ext. 3290 or chuck.vanderhoff@labor.idaho.gov
- Peggy Jackson in the Twin Falls office at (208) 735-2500 ext. 3648 or peggy.jackson@labor.idaho.gov
- Amanda Bolton in the Pocatello office at (208) 236-6710 ext. 3661 or Amanda.bolton@labor.idaho.gov
- Dianne Jensen in the Idaho Falls office at (208) 557-2500 ext. 3584 or Dianne.jensen@labor.idaho.gov
- Julie Dodd in the Salmon office at (208) 756-2234 ext. 3012 or Julie.dodd@labor.idaho.gov

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

BANNOCK COUNTY

- Local officials are concerned about the Idaho Supreme Court ruling that receipts from the local auditorium district's hotel and motel room tax can only be used to build a facility or market one already built. It could preclude support for the Greater Pocatello Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Money from the room tax has been supporting the bureau, which is an integral part of recruiting events to Pocatello that benefit most employers in the lodging industry.
- Construction of Chubbuck's long anticipated \$21 million northwest sewer line could start as soon as next summer. Earlier this summer Chubbuck was awarded a \$10.6 million state loan, which would pay for about half of the project. Before taking construction bids, city officials are evaluating their options for repaying the loan and covering additional project costs.
- The failure of a bond to upgrade Holt Arena made it clear the financing for needed improvements would have to come from something other than property taxes. University officials are implementing a structured plan for higher user fees and imposing parking fees to raise the revenue needed to start the projects.

- Bannock County commissioners announced the selection of Legacy Hospital Partners as a potential partner for Portneuf Medical Center. The partnership is contingent on voter approval this November to convert the operations and county-owned facility to a nonprofit corporation. If approved the Portneuf Health Care Foundation would be a 23 percent partner and Legacy would own 77 percent.

BEAR LAKE COUNTY

- The Montpelier City Council has agreed to buy property along U.S. Highway 30 to trade for land that would become the permanent home for a winter snow tubing hill.

BINGHAM COUNTY

- The grand opening of Bealls department store brought a long line of shoppers wanting to take advantage of the 30 percent to 50 percent discounts being offered. Store manager Joy Nelson said business has been good, and the store seems to be a good fit for the community.
- The Bingham County Commission has approved two wind farms. The panel voted unanimously to grant a special use permit to Ridgeline Energy for a 150 turbine wind farm. Ridgeline will wait until the appeal period has expired before requesting the required building permits. The farm is known as the Goshen South Wind Power Project. The commissioners also approved the application for the Cedar Creek Wind Power Project. The 66 wind turbines were approved on the conditions that they be at least a mile from any occupied dwelling and that a site approval committee ensure visual setback requirements are met.
- The Blackfoot City Council approved a 19-home planned unit development on 4.4 acres on the city's north side. The developer of the project is James Kauer of Rigby.

CARIBOU COUNTY

- Grace city officials are soliciting comments on proposed \$7 million in water and sewer system improvements to meet current code requirements and projected growth.
- One of the largest fertilizers, chemical and seed distributors in the United States, Helena Chemical Co. headquartered in Collierville, Tenn., purchased Pete's Ag in Grace. The new owners intend to keep most of the current workers and hire extra help during the busy seasons.

ONEIDA COUNTY

- A gated community being developed 12 miles north of Devil's Creek Reservoir will begin its marketing drive this month. The 200-acre project with 47 home sites in its initial phase has been in the works for more than two years. Model homes include features like entries with a 16-foot chandelier, a bronze elk sculpture and a 162-foot American flag. The project is being developed by Utah-based Elkhorn Ridge Estates L.L.C. prefabricated log homes are being manufactured by Whisper Creek Log Homes in Pocatello.

POWER COUNTY

- The Power County Planning and Zoning Commission voted unanimously in favor of a special use permit for the coal gasification being proposed by the Power County Advanced Energy Center. The company expects to pay about \$6 million a year in local taxes and spin off several smaller businesses to serve its needs.

- American Falls officials will be asking residents to approve a \$10.8 million bond to renovate the wastewater treatment system on Nov. 4. Most of the current system is nearly 60 years old. Officials say improvements are needed to handle growth and comply with environmental regulations on the discharge of phosphates and ammonia.

Scott Hobdey Regional Economist
(208) 236-6710, ext. 3713
scott.hobdey@labor.idaho.gov

EAST CENTRAL IDAHO

Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison & Teton counties

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

While the nation continues coping with a troubled economy, east central Idaho seems to be holding its own. While the robust growth of recent years has slowed, the region is still growing.

Construction has decreased, but activity is still comparable to the initial years after the 2001 national recession. In the Idaho Construction Report published by Wells Fargo Bank, residential and commercial construction combined with addition, alteration and repair projects was down \$45 million in the first half of 2008 compared to the first half of 2007 in Bingham, Bonneville, Lemhi and Fremont counties and Rexburg and Rigby. However, most of that decrease was in new home construction while additions, alterations and repairs were up almost \$10 million. There were still 400 single family houses built and over 1,050 permits secured. The Idaho Falls metro area had over 5,100 workers in construction in July compared to 5,320 a year earlier.

The region's population grew by almost 30,000 between 2000 and 2007. Growth from 2006 to 2007 was 5,100, down from 5,300 the year before. The 2008 estimate will not be released until next summer but will probably be comparable to the average growth of 4,900 a year over the past three years.

Sales tax collections for the nine counties of east central Idaho during the first half of 2007 totaled \$1.9 billion from January through June, down \$200,000 from the first half of 2007. A major contributor to the decline, based on figures from the Idaho Automobile Dealers Association, was the drop in vehicle sales to 2,343 from 2,655 for the first half of 2007. Cars sales were up by almost 100 while truck sales were down by nearly 400.

In the Idaho Falls metro area, the unemployment rate only increased a tenth of a percentage point from the first half of 2007 to average 2.2 percent. This is such a low rate that the economy is considered fully employed. Jobs have not been as prevalent as the previous two years, but the labor force is slightly larger than in 2007.

Considering the hot pace of economic activity in east central Idaho during the past two years, the slowdown is simply returning economic growth to a more normal level.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

- Idaho Falls is getting a cement skate park at Tautphaus Park. The city has had a wooden skate park for some years but it was smaller than those in surrounding towns. Workers for Grind Line of Seattle should have the project done by the end of October.
- The \$8 million Wood Pilot Project work release and drug treatment center has broken ground in Idaho Falls. It is named after Rep. JoAn Wood, who

was instrumental in securing the state funding. The first-of-its-kind project will bring state and local agencies together to lower the recidivism rate among drug offenders. Currently 30 offenders suffering from both drug addiction and mental illness are committed to the project, but the goal is to have 60 from Bonneville County and 20 from the other surrounding counties. The center will cover 48,000 square feet and is expected to be operational a year from now. The current program director is Rex Thornley, but Brian Mecham takes over in January when Thornley is deployed to Iraq. Mecham is the county jail's mental health treatment provider. The county is also renovating its existing work center to provide more space for inmates.

MADISON COUNTY

- Madison Memorial Hospital in Rexburg is adding a Level II neonatal intensive care unit that will help with premature babies. The hospital averages about 1,750 births a year, and about 10 percent are premature. With the addition of the new unit next spring, the hospital will have the equipment and expertise to care for 11 premature babies or babies suffering from health conditions. The hospital serves the Madison and Fremont County areas along with parts of Montana and Wyoming.

BUTTE AND BONNEVILLE COUNTIES

- CWI, the collaboration of CH2M Hill and Washington Group, recently laid off 46 more workers and 20 others took an optional voluntary quit. This will be an ongoing occurrence as waste cleanup projects are completed at the Idaho National Laboratory. CWI works closely with the INL to find other jobs at the site, and the Idaho Department of Labor offers support for job fairs for affected workers each time there is a layoff.

Tanya Albán, Regional Economist
(208) 557-2500, ext. 3587
tanya.alban@labor.idaho.gov

State of Idaho Data

July 2008 Labor Force (preliminary) compared to July 2007 data *(continued on next page)*.

Seasonally Adjusted Data	July 2008				July 2007			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employ- ment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employ- ment
STATE OF IDAHO	752,954	30,900	4.1	722,054	756,432	20,286	2.7	736,146
COUNTIES								
ADA (1)	192,990	7,869	4.1	185,121	196,183	4,881	2.5	191,301
ADAMS	2,289	112	4.9	2,176	2,327	64	2.8	2,263
BANNOCK (8)	38,579	1,589	4.1	36,990	39,851	1,095	2.7	38,756
BEAR LAKE	3,215	93	2.9	3,123	3,124	80	2.6	3,043
BENEWAH	4,118	203	4.9	3,914	4,004	149	3.7	3,855
BINGHAM	20,883	804	3.8	20,080	20,678	528	2.6	20,150
BLAINE (5)	15,553	359	2.3	15,194	15,412	229	1.5	15,183
BOISE (1)	3,635	127	3.5	3,508	3,705	80	2.2	3,625
BONNER	22,180	896	4.0	21,284	21,675	591	2.7	21,084
BONNEVILLE (6)	50,749	1,507	3.0	49,241	50,500	1,035	2.0	49,465
BOUNDARY	4,209	241	5.7	3,968	4,142	199	4.8	3,943
BUTTE	1,576	55	3.5	1,521	1,443	32	2.2	1,410
CAMAS (5)	705	27	3.8	678	693	15	2.2	678
CANYON (1)	82,476	4,758	5.8	77,718	83,051	2,738	3.3	80,313
CARIBOU	3,183	113	3.6	3,070	3,290	102	3.1	3,188
CASSIA (2)	10,141	341	3.4	9,800	10,169	300	2.9	9,869
CLARK	523	21	4.0	502	527	9	1.7	518
CLEARWATER	3,263	203	6.2	3,061	3,322	151	4.5	3,171
CUSTER	2,771	79	2.8	2,693	2,786	59	2.1	2,728
ELMORE	11,513	539	4.7	10,974	11,384	407	3.6	10,977
FRANKLIN	6,294	163	2.6	6,131	6,181	131	2.1	6,051
FREMONT (9)	6,434	218	3.4	6,216	6,360	161	2.5	6,198
GEM (1)	7,283	382	5.3	6,900	7,356	225	3.1	7,131
GOODING	8,485	265	3.1	8,220	8,200	173	2.1	8,027
IDAHO	7,553	363	4.8	7,190	7,535	273	3.6	7,262
JEFFERSON (6)	11,210	374	3.3	10,836	11,141	256	2.3	10,885
JEROME (10)	10,061	363	3.6	9,698	10,118	302	3.0	9,816
KOOTENAI (3)	70,065	3,058	4.4	67,006	69,887	1,802	2.6	68,085
LATAH	16,341	543	3.3	15,799	16,497	389	2.4	16,108
LEMHI	4,368	197	4.5	4,171	4,331	124	2.9	4,207
LEWIS (4)	1,872	62	3.3	1,810	1,874	46	2.4	1,828
LINCOLN	2,593	107	4.1	2,486	2,615	62	2.4	2,553
MADISON (9)	16,056	594	3.7	15,462	15,798	380	2.4	15,417
MINIDOKA (2)	9,527	409	4.3	9,118	9,577	393	4.1	9,183
NEZ PERCE (7)	17,850	690	3.9	17,160	18,676	535	2.9	18,141
ONEIDA	2,308	74	3.2	2,234	2,263	51	2.3	2,211
OWYHEE (1)	4,675	125	2.7	4,551	4,791	89	1.9	4,702
PAYETTE	10,423	569	5.5	9,854	10,627	380	3.6	10,247
POWER (8)	3,682	194	5.3	3,488	3,801	146	3.8	3,655
SHOSHONE	6,185	370	6.0	5,816	5,664	218	3.8	5,447
TETON	6,212	107	1.7	6,105	5,958	56	0.9	5,902
TWIN FALLS (10)	37,680	1,256	3.3	36,423	37,938	1,068	2.8	36,870
VALLEY	6,125	282	4.6	5,843	6,059	126	2.1	5,933
WASHINGTON	5,120	197	3.8	4,923	5,170	154	3.0	5,016
ASOTIN WA (7)	10,097	704	7.0	9,394	10,212	534	5.2	9,678

* In thousands

State of Idaho Data

July 2008 Labor Force (preliminary) compared to July 2007 data *(continued from previous page).*

Seasonally Adjusted Data		July2008				July 2007			
LABOR MARKET AREAS	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employ- ment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employ- ment	
BOISE CITY-NAMPA MSA (1)	291,059	13,261	4.6	277,797	295,086	8,014	2.7	287,072	
BURLEY MicSA (2)	19,668	750	3.8	18,918	19,746	693	3.5	19,053	
COEUR D'ALENE MSA (3)	70,065	3,058	4.4	67,006	69,887	1,802	2.6	68,085	
GRANGEVILLE SLMA (4)	9,425	425	4.5	8,999	9,409	318	3.4	9,090	
HAILEY SLMA (5)	16,258	386	2.4	15,872	16,104	244	1.5	15,860	
IDAHO FALLS MSA (6)	61,958	1,881	3.0	60,077	61,641	1,291	2.1	60,350	
LEWISTON MSA (7)	27,947	1,394	5.0	26,553	28,888	1,069	3.7	27,819	
POCATELLO MSA (8)	42,262	1,784	4.2	40,478	43,652	1,241	2.8	42,411	
REXBURG MicSA (9)	22,490	813	3.6	21,678	22,157	542	2.4	21,616	
TWIN FALLS MicSA (10)	47,741	1,620	3.4	46,121	48,056	1,370	2.9	46,686	
CITIES									
BOISE	111,513	4,256	3.8	107,256	113,032	2,587	2.3	110,445	
CALDWELL	17,455	1,101	6.3	16,354	17,388	547	3.1	16,841	
COEUR D' ALENE	22,406	1,026	4.6	21,379	22,206	560	2.5	21,647	
IDAHO FALLS	28,698	851	3.0	27,847	28,436	562	2.0	27,875	
LEWISTON	15,163	527	3.5	14,636	15,601	395	2.5	15,207	
MERIDIAN	31,503	1,213	3.8	30,290	31,905	715	2.2	31,191	
NAMPA	36,648	1,886	5.1	34,762	36,915	1,120	3.0	35,795	
POCATELLO	28,838	1,042	3.6	27,796	29,721	701	2.4	29,021	
TWIN FALLS	21,119	708	3.4	20,411	21,180	592	2.8	20,588	
United States*	154,603	8,784	5.7	145,819	153,182	7,137	4.7	146,045	

* In thousands

SOURCE: Idaho Department of Labor, Research & Analysis and Public Affairs.

State of Idaho Data — Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

% change from

BY PLACE OF WORK	Jul 2008*	Jun 2008	Jul 2007	Last Month	Last Year
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	657,600	664,400	670,300	-1.0	-1.9
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	120,000	118,400	128,600	1.4	-6.7
<i>Natural Resources & Mining</i>	5,300	5,200	4,800	1.9	10.4
Logging	2,000	1,900	1,900	5.3	5.3
Mining	3,300	3,300	2,900	0.0	13.8
Metal Ore Mining	1,400	1,300	1,000	7.7	40.0
<i>Construction</i>	51,400	50,600	56,400	1.6	-8.9
<i>Manufacturing</i>	63,300	62,600	67,400	1.1	-6.1
Durable Goods	39,700	39,800	43,600	-0.3	-8.9
Wood Product Manufacturing	6,600	6,800	8,000	-2.9	-17.5
Sawmills & Wood Preservation	2,000	2,100	2,600	-4.8	-23.1
Veneer & Engineered Products	1,300	1,300	1,600	0.0	-18.8
Other Wood Product Manufacturing	3,300	3,400	3,800	-2.9	-13.2
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	4,900	4,900	4,700	0.0	4.3
Machinery Manufacturing	3,100	3,100	3,000	0.0	3.3
Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	13,900	14,000	16,900	-0.7	-17.8
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	3,500	3,500	3,600	0.0	-2.8
Other Durable Goods	7,700	7,500	7,400	2.7	4.1
Nondurable Goods	23,600	22,800	23,800	3.5	-0.8
Food Manufacturing	15,000	14,500	14,900	3.4	0.7
Fruits & Vegetable Preserving & Specialty	7,400	7,200	7,600	2.8	-2.6
Paper Manufacturing	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0	0.0
Printing & Related Support Activities	1,800	1,800	1,900	0.0	-5.3
Chemical Manufacturing	2,400	2,400	2,300	0.0	4.3
Other Nondurable Goods	2,700	2,400	3,000	12.5	-10.0
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	537,600	546,000	541,700	-1.5	-0.8
<i>Trade, Transportation, & Utilities</i>	132,400	132,200	133,400	0.2	-0.7
Trade	111,600	111,300	112,300	0.3	-0.6
Wholesale Trade	28,200	28,200	28,400	0.0	-0.7
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	13,300	13,300	13,200	0.0	0.8
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	11,600	11,600	12,200	0.0	-4.9
Retail Trade	83,400	83,100	83,900	0.4	-0.6
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	12,800	12,900	12,700	-0.8	0.8
Building Material and Garden Equipment	9,600	9,700	10,400	-1.0	-7.7
Food & Beverage Stores	12,500	12,400	12,600	0.8	-0.8
General Merchandise Stores	17,400	17,200	16,900	1.2	3.0
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	20,800	20,900	21,100	-0.5	-1.4
Utilities	2,100	2,100	2,100	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	18,700	18,800	19,000	-0.5	-1.6
Rail Transportation	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0	0.0
Truck Transportation	9,500	9,500	9,400	0.0	1.1
<i>Information</i>	11,300	11,400	11,100	-0.9	1.8
Telecommunications	4,200	4,100	4,100	2.4	2.4
<i>Financial Activities</i>	32,600	32,800	32,900	-0.6	-0.9
Finance & Insurance	23,400	23,800	23,700	-1.7	-1.3
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	9,200	9,000	9,200	2.2	0.0
<i>Professional & Business Services</i>	84,000	85,200	86,000	-1.4	-2.3
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	33,500	33,500	34,000	0.0	-1.5
Scientific Research & Development	7,800	7,700	5,700	1.3	36.8
Management of Companies & Enterprises	7,500	7,400	7,900	1.4	-5.1
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	43,000	44,300	44,100	-2.9	-2.5
Administrative & Support Services	41,800	43,200	41,800	-3.2	0.0
<i>Educational & Health Services</i>	75,500	75,300	73,900	0.3	2.2
Educational Services	7,500	7,600	7,900	-1.3	-5.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	68,000	67,700	66,000	0.4	3.0
Hospitals	16,800	16,700	15,700	0.6	7.0
<i>Leisure & Hospitality</i>	67,400	67,000	66,800	0.6	0.9
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	10,300	10,000	10,600	3.0	-2.8
Accommodation & Food Services	57,100	57,000	56,200	0.2	1.6
Accommodation	10,600	10,000	9,400	6.0	12.8
Food Services & Drinking Places	46,500	47,000	46,800	-1.1	-0.6
<i>Other Services</i>	20,400	20,500	19,800	-0.5	3.0
Total Government	114,000	121,600	117,800	-6.3	-3.2
Federal Government	15,000	14,600	13,700	2.7	9.5
State & Local Government	99,000	107,000	104,100	-7.5	-4.9
State Government	28,500	28,700	28,000	-0.7	1.8
State Government Education	12,000	12,100	12,200	-0.8	-1.6
State Government Administration	16,500	16,600	15,800	-0.6	4.4
Local Government	70,500	78,300	76,100	-10.0	-7.4
Local Government Education	32,700	40,200	39,300	-18.7	-16.8
Local Government Administration	34,200	34,600	33,400	-1.2	2.4
Local Government Tribes	3,600	3,500	3,400	2.9	5.9

*Preliminary estimate ** Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

State of Idaho Data — State Economic Indicators

				% Change From	
	Jul 2008	Jun 2008	Jul 2007	Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	753,000	752,300	756,400	0.1	-0.4
Unemployment	30,900	28,700	20,300	7.7	52.2
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1	3.8	2.7		
Total Employment	722,100	723,600	736,100	-0.2	-1.9
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	762,800	762,300	764,300	0.1	-0.2
Unemployment	27,700	26,500	17,500	4.5	58.3
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	3.6	3.5	2.3		
Total Employment	735,100	735,800	746,800	-0.1	-1.6
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ⁽²⁾					
	5.7	5.5	4.7		
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ⁽²⁾					
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	216.3	215.2	203.7	0.5	6.2
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	220.0	218.8	208.3	0.5	5.6
AGRICULTURE					
Agriculture Employment	48,770	47,510	48,640	2.7	0.3
Operators	9,740	9,740	9,740	0.0	0.0
Unpaid Family	350	360	360	-2.8	-2.8
Hired Workers	38,680	37,410	38,540	3.4	0.4
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Activities					
Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	8,709	7,872	6,667	10.6	30.6
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	54,696	62,876	41,841	-13.0	30.7
Benefit Payment Activities ⁽⁵⁾					
Weeks Compensated	52,972	44,342	32,199	19.5	64.5
Total Benefit \$ Paid	13,433,843	11,438,080	7,528,990	17.4	78.4
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$253.60	\$257.95	\$233.83	-1.7	8.5
Covered Employers	51,443	51,287	49,996	0.3	2.9
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$178,128,426	\$172,187,854	\$116,628,830	3.5	52.7

(1) Preliminary estimate

(2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

(3) Includes all entitlements/programs on intrastate and interstate agent, new and additional claims.

(4) Includes all entitlements/programs, intrastate and interstate agent.

(5) Includes all entitlements/programs, total liable activities.

Panhandle Data

Coeur d'Alene MSA Labor Force & Employment — Kootenai County

	% Change From				
	Jul 2008*	Jun 2007	Jul 2007	Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	70,060	70,380	69,890	-0.5	0.2
Unemployed	3,060	2,720	1,800	12.5	70.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.4	3.9	2.6		
Total Employment	67,000	67,660	68,090	-1.0	-1.6
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	71,640	71,420	71,330	0.3	0.4
Unemployed	2,700	2,540	1,530	6.3	76.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.6	2.1		
Total Employment	68,940	68,880	69,800	0.1	-1.2
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	58,940	59,220	58,540	-0.5	0.7
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	11,020	10,880	11,500	1.3	-4.2
Natural Resources & Mining	460	450	470	2.2	-2.1
Construction	5,840	5,740	6,530	1.7	-10.6
Manufacturing	4,720	4,690	4,500	0.6	4.9
Wood Product Manufacturing	790	790	920	0.0	-14.1
Other Manufacturing	3,930	3,900	3,580	0.8	9.8
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	47,920	48,340	47,040	-0.9	1.9
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	11,430	11,280	11,140	1.3	2.6
Wholesale Trade	1,690	1,670	1,610	1.2	5.0
Retail Trade	8,660	8,540	8,490	1.4	2.0
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	1,080	1,070	1,040	0.9	3.8
Information	970	960	980	1.0	-1.0
Financial Activities	3,140	3,180	3,130	-1.3	0.3
Professional & Business Services	6,140	6,140	6,270	0.0	-2.1
Educational & Health Services	5,940	5,930	5,600	0.2	6.1
Leisure & Hospitality	9,470	9,170	9,420	3.3	0.5
Other Services	1,650	1,630	1,550	1.2	6.5
Government Education	2,780	3,380	2,720	-17.8	2.2
Government Administration	5,420	5,700	5,340	-4.9	1.5
Government Tribes	980	970	890	1.0	10.1

* Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.

North Central Idaho Data

Lewiston MSA Labor Force & Employment — Nez Perce County, Idaho and Asotin County, Wash.

	Jul 2008*	Jun 2008	Jul 2007	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	27,950	29,450	28,890	-5.1	-3.3
Unemployment	1,390	1,320	1,070	5.3	29.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.0	4.5	3.7		
Total Employment	26,560	28,130	27,820	-5.6	-4.5
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	28,340	29,910	29,010	-5.2	-2.3
Unemployment	1,250	1,250	940	0.0	33.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.4	4.2	3.2		
Total Employment	27,090	28,660	28,070	-5.5	-3.5
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	28,305	28,749	27,565	-1.5	2.7
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	4,911	4,703	5,112	4.4	-3.9
Natural Resources & Mining	192	192	216	0.0	-11.1
Construction	1,479	1,297	1,541	14.0	-4.0
Manufacturing	3,240	3,214	3,355	0.8	-3.4
Wood Product Manufacturing	594	603	611	-1.5	-2.7
Paper Manufacturing	1,129	1,127	1,159	0.2	-2.6
Other Manufacturing	1,517	1,484	1,585	2.2	-4.3
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	23,394	24,046	22,453	-2.7	4.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,588	5,645	5,524	-1.0	1.2
Wholesale Trade	620	639	696	-3.0	-10.9
Retail Trade	3,739	3,739	3,644	0.0	2.6
Utilities	93	94	91	-0.4	2.7
Transportation & Warehousing	1,136	1,173	1,093	-3.2	3.9
Information	391	391	405	0.0	-3.5
Financial Activities	2,730	2,807	2,139	-2.7	27.6
Professional & Business Services	1,960	1,960	1,649	0.0	18.9
Education & Health Services	4,050	4,163	4,234	-2.7	-4.4
Leisure & Hospitality	2,807	2,767	2,690	1.4	4.3
Other Services	1,050	1,050	1,110	0.0	-5.4
Government Education	2,173	2,418	1,991	-10.1	9.2
Government Administration	1,904	2,118	2,035	-10.1	-6.4
Government Tribes	741	727	676	1.9	9.6

*Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.

Southwestern Idaho Data

Boise-Nampa MSA Labor Force & Employment – Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties

	Jul 2008*	Jun 2007	Jul 2007	% Change	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	291,100	289,800	295,100	0.4	-1.4
Unemployment	13,300	12,400	8,000	7.3	66.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.6	4.3	2.7		
Total Employment	277,800	277,400	287,100	0.1	-3.2
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	295,400	294,300	298,800	0.4	-1.1
Unemployment	12,100	11,100	7,000	9.0	72.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1	3.8	2.4		
Total Employment	283,300	283,200	291,800	0.0	-2.9
JOB BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	275,200	277,800	276,100	-0.9	-0.3
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	51,300	51,100	56,100	0.4	-8.6
<i>Natural Resources & Construction</i>	22,300	22,100	24,400	0.9	-8.6
Construction	21,900	21,800	24,000	0.5	-8.8
<i>Manufacturing</i>	29,000	29,000	31,700	0.0	-8.5
Durable Goods	22,200	22,300	25,100	-0.4	-11.6
Wood Product Manufacturing	2,400	2,400	2,500	0.0	-4.0
Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.	1,500	1,500	1,600	0.0	-6.3
Machinery Manufacturing	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0	0.0
Computer & Electronic Manufacturing	12,300	12,400	14,800	-0.8	-16.9
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	2,400	2,400	2,500	0.0	-4.0
Other Durable Goods	2,300	2,300	2,400	0.0	-4.2
Nondurable Goods	6,800	6,700	6,600	1.5	3.0
Food Manufacturing	4,900	4,800	4,500	2.1	8.9
Printing & Related Support Activities	700	700	700	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	1,200	1,200	1,400	0.0	-14.3
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	223,900	226,700	220,000	-1.2	1.8
<i>Trade, Transportation, & Utilities</i>	54,400	54,200	53,900	0.4	0.9
Trade	46,000	45,800	46,200	0.4	-0.4
Wholesale Trade	13,000	12,900	12,700	0.8	2.4
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	7,400	7,400	7,200	0.0	2.8
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	4,100	4,000	4,000	2.5	2.5
Retail Trade	33,000	32,900	33,500	0.3	-1.5
Food & Beverage Stores	4,400	4,400	4,400	0.0	0.0
General Merchandise Stores	7,200	7,100	7,200	1.4	0.0
All Other Retail Trade	21,400	21,400	21,900	0.0	-2.3
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	8,400	8,400	7,700	0.0	9.1
Utilities	700	700	700	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	7,700	7,700	7,000	0.0	10.0
<i>Information</i>	5,000	5,000	4,700	0.0	6.4
Telecommunications	1,300	1,300	1,400	0.0	-7.1
<i>Financial Activities</i>	14,000	14,200	14,400	-1.4	-2.8
Finance & Insurance	10,100	10,300	10,000	-1.9	1.0
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3,900	3,900	4,400	0.0	-11.4
<i>Professional & Business Services</i>	40,200	41,200	41,500	-2.4	-3.1
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	13,700	13,700	13,500	0.0	1.5
Management of Companies & Ent.	5,700	5,700	5,800	0.0	-1.7
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt.	20,800	21,800	22,200	-4.6	-6.3
<i>Educational & Health Services</i>	34,300	34,300	32,500	0.0	5.5
Educational Services	2,400	2,500	2,300	-4.0	4.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	31,900	31,800	30,200	0.3	5.6
Hospitals	10,300	10,200	9,600	1.0	7.3
<i>Leisure & Hospitality</i>	24,800	24,900	25,800	-0.4	-3.9
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2,900	2,900	3,700	0.0	-21.6
Accommodation & Food Services	21,900	22,000	22,100	-0.5	-0.9
Accommodation	2,600	2,500	2,400	4.0	8.3
Food Services & Drinking Places	19,300	19,500	19,700	-1.0	-2.0
<i>Other Services</i>	8,400	8,500	7,200	-1.2	16.7
Total Government	42,800	44,400	40,000	-3.6	7.0
Federal Government	6,400	6,400	6,200	0.0	3.2
State & Local Government	36,400	38,000	33,800	-4.2	7.7
State Government	13,500	13,700	12,700	-1.5	6.3
State Government Education	4,100	4,100	3,700	0.0	10.8
State Government Administration	9,400	9,600	9,000	-2.1	4.4
Local Government	22,900	24,300	21,100	-5.8	8.5
Local Government Education	13,300	14,700	12,100	-9.5	9.9
Local Government Administration	9,600	9,600	9,000	0.0	6.7

* Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.

South Central Idaho Data

Twin Falls-Jerome MicSA Labor Force & Employment – Twin Falls and Jerome counties

	Jul 2008*	Jun 2007	Jul 2007	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	47,740	47,860	48,070	-0.3	-0.7
Unemployment	1,620	1,590	1,370	1.9	18.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.4	3.3	2.9		
Total Employment	46,120	46,270	46,700	-0.3	-1.2
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	48,560	48,370	48,920	0.4	-0.7
Unemployment	1,430	1,410	1,160	1.4	23.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.9	2.9	2.4		
Total Employment	47,130	46,960	47,760	0.4	-1.3
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	40,160	40,190	39,950	-0.1	0.5
<i>Goods-Providing Industries</i>	7,310	7,370	7,480	-0.8	-2.3
Natural Resources & Mining	60	60	60	0.0	0.0
Construction	2,400	2,520	2,430	-4.8	-1.2
Manufacturing	4,850	4,790	4,990	1.3	-2.8
Food Manufacturing	2,850	2,550	2,880	11.8	-1.0
Other Manufacturing	2,000	2,240	2,110	-10.7	-5.2
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	32,850	32,820	32,470	0.1	1.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	9,980	9,890	9,900	0.9	0.8
Wholesale Trade	1,970	2,030	1,960	-3.0	0.5
Retail Trade	5,810	5,640	5,890	3.0	-1.4
Utilities	180	180	180	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	2,020	2,040	1,870	-1.0	8.0
Information	670	700	680	-4.3	-1.5
Financial Activities	1,700	1,630	1,780	4.3	-4.5
Professional & Business Services	4,800	4,650	4,990	3.2	-3.8
Educational & Health Services	5,380	5,400	5,180	-0.4	3.9
Leisure & Hospitality	3,550	3,450	3,270	2.9	8.6
Other Services	1,490	1,450	1,500	2.8	-0.7
Government Education	3,000	3,150	2,680	-4.8	11.9
Government Administration	2,280	2,500	2,490	-8.8	-8.4

*Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.

Southeastern Idaho Data

Pocatello MSA Labor Force & Employment Bannock and Power counties

	Jul 2008*	Jun 2008	Jul 2007	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	42,262	42,228	43,652	0.1	-3.2
Unemployment	1,784	1,687	1,241	5.7	43.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.2	4.0	2.8		
Total Employment	40,478	40,541	42,411	-0.2	-4.6
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	42,562	43,663	43,841	-2.5	-2.9
Unemployment	1,586	1,501	1,060	5.7	49.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.7	3.4	2.4		
Total Employment	40,976	42,162	42,781	-2.8	-4.2
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	36,830	37,990	38,140	-3.1	-3.4
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	5,540	5,520	5,700	0.4	-2.8
Natural Resources & Mining	30	30	20	0.0	50.0
Construction	1,880	1,880	2,140	0.0	-12.1
Manufacturing	3,630	3,610	3,540	0.6	2.5
Food Manufacturing	1,400	1,390	1,370	0.7	2.2
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	180	180	180	0.0	0.0
Machinery Manufacturing	100	90	370	11.1	-73.0
Other Manufacturing	1,950	1,950	1,620	0.0	20.4
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	31,290	32,470	32,440	-3.6	-3.5
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	7,460	7,780	7,370	-4.1	1.2
Wholesale Trade	1,410	1,410	1,160	0.0	21.6
Retail Trade	4,570	4,900	4,670	-6.7	-2.1
Utilities	50	50	50	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,430	1,420	1,490	0.7	-4.0
Information	760	840	830	-9.5	-8.4
Financial Activities	2,160	2,160	2,110	0.0	2.4
Professional & Business Services	4,700	4,820	4,940	-2.5	-4.9
Educational & Health Services	3,240	3,300	3,210	-1.8	0.9
Leisure & Hospitality	3,250	3,200	3,940	1.6	-17.5
Other Services	1,140	1,110	1,170	2.7	-2.6
Government Education	4,320	5,120	4,370	-15.6	-1.1
Government Administration	4,260	4,140	4,500	2.9	-5.3

*Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.

East Central Idaho Data

Idaho Falls MSA Labor Force & Employment – Bonneville and Jefferson counties

	Jul 2008*	Jun 2008	Jul 2007	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	61,960	62,060	61,640	-0.2	0.5
Unemployment	1,880	1,720	1,290	9.3	45.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.0	2.8	2.1		
Total Employment	60,080	60,340	60,350	-0.4	-0.4
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	63,250	63,060	62,780	0.3	0.7
Unemployment	1,560	1,520	1,030	2.6	51.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.5	2.4	1.6		
Total Employment	61,690	61,540	61,750	0.2	-0.1
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	52,150	52,850	52,330	-1.3	-0.3
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	8,810	8,170	8,900	7.8	-1.0
Construction & Natural Resources	5,160	4,620	5,320	11.7	-3.0
Manufacturing	3,650	3,550	3,580	2.8	2.0
Food Manufacturing	920	940	980	-2.1	-6.1
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	300	290	290	3.3	3.4
Machinery Manufacturing	160	160	180	0.0	-11.1
Other Manufacturing	2,270	2,160	2,130	5.1	6.6
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	43,340	44,680	43,430	-3.0	-0.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	13,640	13,840	13,510	-1.4	1.0
Wholesale Trade	3,210	3,390	3,730	-5.3	-13.9
Retail Trade	7,800	7,740	7,830	0.8	-0.4
Utilities	60	60	60	0.0	0.0
Transportation	2,570	2,650	1,890	-3.0	36.0
Information	1,440	1,520	1,230	-5.3	17.1
Financial Activities	2,130	2,160	2,210	-1.4	-3.6
Professional & Business Services	5,740	5,590	5,550	2.7	3.4
Educational & Health Services	7,040	7,080	7,320	-0.6	-3.8
Leisure & Hospitality	4,770	4,740	5,110	0.6	-6.7
Other Services	2,130	2,360	2,050	-9.7	3.9
Government Education	2,830	3,670	2,700	-22.9	4.8
Government Administration	3,620	3,720	3,750	-2.7	-3.5

*Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.

Glossary of Labor Market Terms

Agriculture Employment: Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours: The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12th of the month.

Average Weekly Earnings: Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

Civilian Labor Force: A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

Consumer Price Index (CPI): A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

Covered Employers: Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

Durable Goods: Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

Employed: Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12th day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

Initial Claim: Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA): Combinations of counties in which at least half the residents live in an urban center of 50,000 or more and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. Idaho has five MSAs: Boise MSA including Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties; Bonneville MSA including Bonneville and Jefferson counties; Pocatello MSA including Bannock and Power counties; Lewiston MSA including Nez Perce County and Asotin County, Wash.; Coeur d’Alene MSA including Kootenai, Boundary, Bonner, Benewah and Shoshone counties.

Micropolitan Statistical Area (MicSA): Combinations of counties in which at least half the residents live in urban centers totaling at least 10,000—or 5,000 living in a single urban center—and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MicSAs. Idaho has three MicSAs: Burley MicSA including Cassia and Minidoka counties; Rexburg MicSA including Madison and Fremont counties; Twin Falls MicSA including Twin Falls and Jerome counties.

Glossary of Labor Market Terms (cont.)

Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment: Persons on nonfarm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12th of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

Nondurable Goods: Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

Seasonally Adjusted: Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

Small Labor Market Areas (SLMA): Combinations of counties with significant ties through commuting patterns but no urban centers with populations of 10,000 or more. The Office of Management and Budget designates the SLMAs. Idaho has two SLMAs: Hailey SLMA including Blaine and Camas counties; Grangeville SLMA including Lewis and Idaho counties.

Unemployed: Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12th of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

Unemployment Insurance: Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

Unemployment Rate: The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

Weekly Benefit Amount: The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

Weeks Claimed: The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

Weeks Compensated: The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.

IDAHO EMPLOYMENT is published online monthly by the Idaho Department of Labor. All information is in the public domain and may be duplicated without permission; however, the Idaho Department of Labor should be cited as the source.

The source for all data tables and graphs is the Idaho Department of Labor, Communications & Research, except where noted.

IDAHO EMPLOYMENT is produced by the Idaho Department of Labor which is funded at least in part by federal grants from the U.S. Department of Labor. Costs associated with this online publication are available by contacting the Idaho Department of Labor. Questions and comments can be directed to Public Affairs by phoning (208) 332-3570, ext. 3220, or by e-mail to janell.hyer@labor.idaho.gov or to the Regional Economists noted in each area news section.

Editors: Bob Fick (bob.fick@labor.idaho.gov), Jean Cullen (jean.cullen@labor.idaho.gov).

